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ONE WORLD

This month we are setting aside our domestic concerns to look at what is going on in our world community. In an ordinary number of the magazine we might be writing about the disability pensions debate, the flurry in the House about the physical fitness program, or a dozen other all-Canadian subjects. But this is no ordinary month: the International Conference of Social Work is meeting in Canada for the first time; and the friends we invited to contribute to this issue responded so enthusiastically that we could have filled twice as many pages with international articles and news alone.

In a real sense we are not setting aside our domestic interests, for Canada's welfare is inextricably bound up with world's welfare, and everything in these pages concerns Canada and its people. Canadians have filled very important posts in the international agencies whose work we are presenting. There is no need to relate here, because everybody knows, what Adelaide Sinclair has done in UNICEF, Brock Chisholm in the World Health Organization, and Hugh Keenleyside in the UN Technical Assistance Administration. Numerous other Canadians have served devotedly in the less well known international social welfare jobs. Canada has contributed generously to UN agency funds, and voluntary Canadian agencies have responded to every plea for help.

This is not a boast. It is only right for us to respect what we have done, and resolve to do more. We cannot rest easy while there is any needless want or misery in the world.

"And all the while for every grief,
Each suffering, I craved relief
With individual desire—"

This is Edna St. Vincent Millay describing a crisis of feeling that resolved itself in a renaissance of love and energy. She goes on to say:

"The world stands out on either side
No wider than the heart is wide."

If our hearts are wide enough our sense of the world's suffering will not make us shrink impotently away from it but move us in sympathy to relieve it.



Hugh L. Keenleyside

THE NATIONS UNITE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

By HUGH L. KEENLEYSIDE

Director-General, UN Technical Assistance Administration

By its Charter, the United Nations is dedicated to the promotion of "... social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom ..." and undertakes "to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples".

The United Nations Charter set out the wishes and hopes of men and shaped machinery to fulfil them. This machinery forms not a separate, sovereign, super-state, but represents the common will and collective conscience of, today, sixty nations.

The 18-nation UN Economic and Social Council has steadily sought to pursue both the Charter's strategy of attack against the evils that afflict mankind, and the tactics that the emergencies of the years have demanded and that the General Assembly has directed.

In the social field, with due regard for economic and political realities, the Economic and Social Council has directed the Social Commission and other commissions and agencies with it, to pursue many long-range problems and to meet many short-term crises.

The problem of poverty, of lack of food, of expanding populations, of lack of statistical information, and

much else of basic importance receive continuing expert, international attention.

The sudden emergencies caused by war and earthquake, by political unrest and insecurity, have been met by special actions.

In the greatest international co-operative move in the history of mankind, the United Nations has revealed the danger to human society and promoted welfare through self-help in many ways. The whole, dynamic story is reviewed in *The World Social Situation*, a UN document of top importance.

The dividing line between political, economic and social problems is fine, in many areas even non-existent. Within the United Nations, commissions and agencies not primarily concerned with social problems none the less are often related to and have impact upon them. The World Health Organization, International Labour Office, Food and Agriculture Organization, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, all work in fields where the social implications are manifest.

Other units have special tasks. These include the Technical Assistance Administration of the UN, the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, the Office of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund (still called UNICEF), and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

These, together with the Social Affairs Department of the United Nations Secretariat, have special responsibilities in the social field on either an emergency or a long-term basis, or both.

The high ideals of the UN Charter, the plans of the organizations' commissions and agencies, the debates in the councils and committees, are meaningless without a basis of national and local determination to achieve social progress, to meet the human, elemental needs for social well-being.

Program of Concerted Practical Action in the Social Field

The Social Commission at its last session concentrated attention mainly on a re-evaluation of the work of the United Nations and specialized agencies in the social field and prepared a broad program of concerted practical action for consideration by the Economic and Social Council.

On the basis of the Commission's recommendations, the Council in resolution 496 (XVI) set forth general principles, methods and techniques for carrying out an international program, and requested the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned to devote particular attention to the promotion of community development projects in under-developed areas (particularly through the establishment of demonstration centres), the training of professional and technical personnel and of auxiliary and community workers at the local level, and the strengthening of national and local organiza-

tions for administering social programs.

The General Assembly requested the Council to consider further practical measures which may be undertaken, and to report to the Assembly on the progress achieved.

A combined approach to the problem of raising standards of living on the basis of a systematic review of the work programs in the social field of the United Nations and the specialized agencies has now been established. Coordinated Secretariat action has resulted in a close examination of programs and specific projects in the fields of social policy and development, community organization and development, rehabilitation of the handicapped, housing and town and country planning, migration and social defence.

Increasing emphasis has been directed towards the closer integration of programs of study and field operations, and the number of requests for direct assistance in the social field has called for careful planning in view of the limitation of funds.

International Survey of Programs of Social Development

The Social Commission recommended further that the Economic and Social Council should alternate the Report on the World Social Situation with a comprehensive report on measures taken by governments to remedy or improve the conditions reflected in the 1952 Report.

At an inter-agency meeting held in Geneva in March 1953 by representatives of the United Nations, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO, agreement was reached on a program of work for the preparation of this survey.

Special attention is being given to measures introduced since 1945, and the report is intended to enable countries to benefit from each other's experiences, particularly the less-developed countries which are seeking to raise the standards of living of their people through programs of economic and social development.

International Definition and Measurement of Standards of Living

A report on this aspect of the subject containing practical suggestions for international action was prepared by a small group of experts sponsored jointly by the United Nations, ILO and UNESCO and convened by the Secretary-General in June 1953. It has been published and will be considered by the Statistical Commission in Geneva in April 1954 and by the Special Commission at its 1955 session.

The following are among the major conclusions and recommendations contained in the report: from an international point of view, standards of living must be approached in terms of a series of components (e.g., health, nutrition, education, etc.) and their statistical indicators, rather than in terms of monetary indices such as per capita national income; numerous other improvements are necessary and desirable in existing types of indicators of levels of living, but an adequate and comprehensive

analysis will only be possible through a considerable expansion of direct surveys of living conditions at the family level. An annual report as requested by the General Assembly resolution 527(VI) "showing changes in absolute levels of living conditions in all countries" is not feasible, in the opinion of the committee of experts, which recommend that it should not be undertaken by the Secretariat at the present time.

Community Organization and Development

In response to certain questions raised by the Social Commission in 1953 concerning the relation of community development, fundamental education and related activities, and to ensure the maximum coordination of planning and execution of projects aimed at integrating social activities at the community level, an *ad hoc* meeting was convened by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (9-11 July 1953) to establish working arrangements on responsibilities in this broad field of activity.

These consultations resulted in an agreement on definitions of terms, and on the roles and objectives of the agencies participating in the joint program in the broad field of community organization and development.

Preparatory arrangements are being made, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, for one con-

There has never been a time in human history when so much cold, calculated, callous planning has been devoted to the destruction and degradation of human life; yet never has there been a time when so many people in so many parts of the world have given an affirmative answer to the fundamental question 'Am I my brother's keeper?'

—H. L. KEENLEYSIDE, at the Annual Dinner of the Canadian Welfare Council, May 3, 1951.

ference to be convened during the latter part of 1954 for the South and South East Asia region, and another early in 1955 for the Eastern Mediterranean area. The Secretary General in December 1953 addressed letters to governments requesting an indication of their intentions with regard to participation in these conferences.

Since the last session of the Social Commission, the reports of the missions are undertaken jointly by the United Nations and the specialized agencies for the purpose of surveying selected community development experiments in the Caribbean area and Mexico, in the Middle East and in South and South East Asia, have become available. (It is hoped to have such a survey in Africa in 1955.)

These reports constitute the published results of the first international attempt to ascertain the status of the development of community programs in these regions. The surveys revealed that the most urgent needs are the development and clarification of national policy, the training of personnel, the planning and organization of demonstration projects and the supply of technical literature.

To help in meeting the need for technical literature and training materials, information has been made available to governments through the publications in the United Nations Series on Community Organization and Development. The series includes country monographs, special studies of selected experiments of particular significance, reports of survey missions, and training aids in the form of study kits and guides.

Conclusion

During 1953 a total of seventy-six social welfare experts was assigned

to twenty-seven countries. Two hundred and fifty-four fellowships and scholarships were awarded in the general field of social welfare. These direct services of the United Nations, to and on behalf of governments throughout the world, represent part of the operations of the Technical Assistance Administration with the assistance of the Department of Social Affairs.

There are similar services by the Technical Assistance Administration in the fields of economic development and public administration—each closely related to social development. These efforts, added to other social programs of the United Nations, including UNICEF, the emergency relief agencies, and the specialized agencies concerned, ensure that a significant contribution is being made toward helping governments achieve "conditions of social progress and development".

International collaboration in the social field can only be effective when it reflects the sincere will of the peoples of the world. Thus the effectiveness of world-wide cooperation for the betterment of living standards, for improved social welfare services and all this implies, depends on you, the person who reads this issue of *CANADIAN WELFARE*.

You must have views on these things, and the determination to make them known. And if you are a professional or a voluntary worker in the social field, you have special responsibilities. The way human beings will in fact work to help each other locally, nationally, internationally, depends on each one of us.

CHIENGMAI COMES BACK

By S. M. KEENY

*Director, Asia Regional Office
United Nations Children's Fund*

CHIENGMAI is a bit off the beaten track in Thailand. To be sure, if you are the adventurous type you can fly there from Bangkok in three hours in one of our time-tested Dakotas; or if you are more conservative, you can make it by "express" train in a night and a day. But there is no highway leading north to it, and the daring soul who makes the trip by jeep usually writes of his adventures in *THE BANGKOK POST*.

Once you are in Chiangmai you can return, as many do, by floating down the Chao Phya River on a raft of teak logs, along with the crew and their families, who live in little huts on the raft, together with their dogs, chickens, ducks, and a pig or two as reserve food stocks in case the raft should get stuck for a week or two on a sand bank.

It was one of these rafts floating down river past my office in Bangkok that prompted this article. For, even to us in Bangkok, Chiangmai is a romantic word. It suggests to us elephants larger than usual working in the teak forests, white and grey gibbons for sale as pets, and aboriginal tribesmen coming down out of the hills to buy knives and matches in the village bazaars.

But Chiangmai has a proud history. Scattered among its Buddhist temples, with their steps railed with balustrades in the form of sacred serpents, are ruins of the ancient Northern Capital of Thailand.

The province is also famous for its

pretty girls, one of whom, two years ago, captured the title of Miss Thailand.

But the war had brought hard times to Chiangmai. The flow of medicines, never plentiful, slowed up from Bangkok, and those that did come cost a lot more: wartime prices were higher, there was a black market, and the currency was inflating. The Presbyterian Mission hospital had lost much of its staff, and few nurses and mid-wives were being trained to replace those who moved away or married or just became discouraged at their wages, which bought less and less as prices soared. Meanwhile, the records, if any, showed more deaths from "fevers"—mostly malaria, but with lots of the intestinal diseases so common to the tropics.

Finally the war ended, but things grew no better. The children looked healthy enough, and certainly did not lack Vitamin D. They got plenty of sunlight; for most of them wore nothing for the first few years except the woolen cap that is the total local costume for the Junior Set. They *looked* healthy enough; but they had lots of "fevers"—and rather less than three out of four lived to see their first birthday.

Anti-Malaria

Then came the malaria team, aided by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. They brought with them a new way of fighting malaria—much simpler and cheaper than the

old one of killing larvae by spraying all water that might serve as breeding places—a system expensive and well-nigh impossible in tropical jungles.

Instead, they sprayed only the insides of houses and animal shelters, relying on the knowledge that malaria is spread by female mosquitoes, which develop a thirst for blood when they are pregnant—and all too often get it from people who have malaria. Then, in turn, the mosquito gets malaria after a week or ten days. In the meantime, however, she drinks blood every night and flies, gorged, to the nearest wall to digest it. That's where the DDT does its work. The chances that she will light on the DDT before she develops malaria are almost 100 per cent.

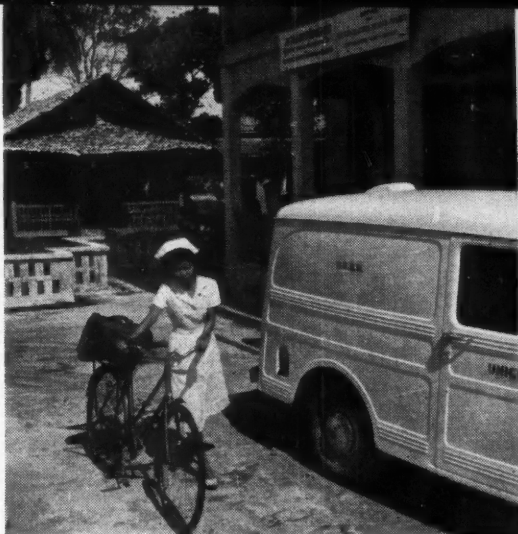
This campaign took the malaria workers into all the homes in and around Chiangmai. With them went the Irish nurse, Peggy Cannon. At first, she did little more than help the housewives protect their belongings from the DDT spray—but she was getting acquainted.

From Malaria Control to Midwifery

Soon she was giving medicines and advice to mothers with sick babies and learning who among them were expectant. Within a few months, she had won the confidence of the local midwives, who were naturally afraid at first of a foreigner who made the most terrible mistakes in speaking their language. Of course they liked her for trying; for it showed that she was really interested in them.

Nurse Cannon delivered a lot of babies herself, but gradually, as the local girls took over, she was called on only for the more difficult cases. The reputation of the new team soon spread, and their work became more than they could cope with.

June 15, 1954



UN Photo

This midwife like hundreds in Thailand attended the Training and Demonstration Centre in Chiangmai City.

The next stage was the organized training of more midwives. At first, the girls were slow in coming forward because to be a midwife in Thailand is still not a badge of distinction. But the community leaders soon became interested and a committee was formed. When the girls from the better families began to enroll and the Governor himself praised the new effort, things began to look different.

In a few months all the births in the town of Chiangmai were being looked after. Within two years, the effects of the malaria campaign, better midwifery, and the replenishment of the supply of drugs had reduced the death rate of babies by more than half.

The whole province began to be interested. The trouble now was that, with so many midwives in training, they could not find baby cases enough to practise on, so that the training area had to be widened. Soon so many special cases needing hospital care were being found that

there were not enough beds for them. It was then that the local Governor's committee, though new to this sort of work, began to show that they "had the stuff". They said that they would raise the money to build a maternity ward of fifty beds if somebody would buy the equipment that had to be imported. U.S. aid promptly offered most of it; UNICEF supplied the rest.

Number 2 Wife?

The committee now began to be ambitious and planned centres for the whole province—some 23 in all. Quarters were built or rented, and girls were trained. But then more trouble arose. As the girls got better acquainted, they explained to Miss Cannon that one girl could not go out alone. Why not? Because she would have to live with a family. To most of us that would seem simple enough; but they explained that they would be taken as Number 2 wife. (Monogamy is still a fragile plant in Chiang-mai.)

What, then, was the answer? They could live in pairs. But where? All too often in the past, the midwife had moved into her office and lived there, with the result that the office was moved out onto the veranda if it didn't disappear entirely. The Government said all this must be changed, and agreed to build quarters for all the midwives.

Mounted Midwives

Even this didn't solve all the problems. Pregnant women can't walk very far under the tropical sun, and midwives can't visit them all on foot. And so came a request for bicycles. These are fairly plentiful in Thailand among the younger set, but they are mostly ridden by boys. So a class in

riding bicycles had to be started. This wasn't as difficult as it is in some Muslim countries, where the girls are in purdah, but it was bad enough. When the history of the growth of midwifery in Asia is written, there should be a chapter on bicycles.

This new development called, again, for a new type of midwife's kit that a girl could carry readily. The first one supplied by UNICEF had contained all sorts of gadgets, but it was too complicated and too heavy. A second one has since been worked out, which consists of a small aluminum box, which weighs less than nine pounds packed and which can be strapped on a luggage rack to be taken as far as the bicycle can go and carried from where the path ends.

As these girls worked out into the country, they of course began to find all sorts of cases they could not handle. And so a van was transformed into an ambulance. Now the serious cases are brought into Chiang-mai to be delivered safely instead of being left to die in the village.

As the campaign reached farther into the countryside, it was noted that the "second-class" medical centres, which did most of the rural mid-wifery, were generally in bad shape. Within a few months, as a part of a national plan, all the midwives scattered throughout the province were brought into Chiangmai for a refresher course, re-equipped, and encouraged to go back to do a better job.

Food Fit to Eat

But all this was not enough. It is one thing to cure babies who are sick, but another to keep them well. One of the reasons for all the sickness was bad feeding. Although there was, in

general, food enough, the babies were not getting the right kind. The main trouble was that the rice was being polished too much—everybody in Thailand likes white rice—and polishing it too white takes away the most nourishing part.

Also, they were using too few vegetables, partly because these, too, made them sick. (The use of night soil for fertilizer in growing vegetables is one of the surest ways to spread intestinal diseases.) So training began on ways to grow vegetables that would not spread disease. Most important of all, it was discovered that, although Chiangmai Province grew lots of soya, it grew it for export and it ate very little of it. The next step was to teach the manufacture of soya "milk" and curd after the simple system so widely used by the Chinese.

Most of these larger developments were made under the guidance of an excellent WHO public health adviser from Ceylon. He not only started new projects; he also organized committees to support and expand each of them and, best of all, helped them to see how all the separate efforts fitted together into a public health program. Much of what Ceylon had learned in the last couple of decades was thus transmitted in a few months, with United Nations aid, to a country thousands of miles away.

Plumbing

The Chiangmai community is getting ambitious now and is talking about environmental sanitation. Of course, they don't use such big words as that, but they are beginning to understand how important it is to have pure water and to keep food and water from being contaminated by human excreta.

This is one of the hardest things to teach in Asia. Chiangmai has a good start in that it has hills all about it, and running water is never far away. The second half of the job is more difficult; for everybody knows he needs water, but not everybody knows he needs a privy.

Summer Capital

In three years, however, Chiangmai has come a long way. The committees are extremely proud of what they have done, and talk about "our maternity ward", "our health centres", and "our midwives". A lot of the girls get married, of course; as we said before, Chiangmai is famous for its pretty girls. But many of them will keep working; for Thailand includes among its freedoms the freedom of women to work.

And since the girls have been recruited in Chiangmai, most of them will be willing to stay there; for they have not got fancy ideas among the bright lights of Bangkok. Some of them even say that Chiangmai is better than Bangkok; it has the same movies, Coca Cola, and permanents—and it has, as well, the cool nights of the hills instead of the sweltering heat of the plains.

Now that malaria is no longer to be feared, Chiangmai is slowly coming back. It is certain to be the summer capital of Thailand.

Put Chiangmai on your list of places to be visited on your next world tour. Visitors from Canada will be especially welcome; for Canada has been one of the best supporters of UNICEF. But your Thai hosts will not feel inferior; the second largest contributor is Thailand. Of course, they'd never bring up the point, lest you lose face, which is most important here in Thailand.

WELFARE WORK AMONG THE REFUGEES FROM PALESTINE

By STEPHEN FALKLAND and JOHN E. ROBBINS

ONE of the largest and longest welfare operations of the post-war years is the little publicized one undertaken by the United Nations and voluntary agencies for Palestinian refugees in the Near East. This complex humanitarian operation began in the autumn of 1948 and still goes on.

At the end of hostilities in Palestine there were 880,000 refugees, and the number is little changed. More than half are in Jordan, nearly a quarter in Gaza, and a similar number divided between Labanon and Syria. Immediate care of these people was undertaken by the League of Red Cross Societies, Comité International de la Croix Rouge and the Society of Friends, besides a number of the welfare organizations and the governments of the host countries.

Refugees were massed in unorganized camps with little or no shelter, no sanitation, extremely poor water supplies and no means of livelihood. Danger of epidemics arising from the crowded conditions, lack of shelter and food, infant mortality,—these were the chief problems immediately confronting United Nations when it began its work.

United Nations Relief for Palestinian Refugees started early in 1949, and with the assistance of UNICEF and WHO greatly improved these conditions during the 16 months of its joint operation with the Red Cross organizations and the Quakers. In May 1950, the UN Relief and Works Agency, known as UNRWA, came into being. This Agency still requires, and receives, the help of other UN and voluntary organizations.

Organization of UNRWA

Headquarters are in Beirut, Lebanon. The Director is responsible for the Agency's policy and operation. The policy is laid down in consultation with the Advisory Commission, consisting at present of the representatives of Britain, U.S.A., France and Turkey. The Advisory Commission is concerned only with the provision of over-all guidance on agency policy and does not deal with the agency's functional operations.

Executive heads of the organization are the chiefs of divisions at headquarters—health, welfare, education, supply, administration, economics and finance. They are administratively responsible to the Director and they operate through field officers in the countries where refugees are located. Reporting to the Director also are advisers in the fields of public relations, legal matters, engineering, community facilities and agriculture.

There is an "UNRWA representative" in each country who is admin-



Undernourished children receive a hot meal a day in UNRWA feeding centre.

UN Photo

istrative head of the field and is responsible directly to the Director. This decentralised organization gives maximum elasticity and speed of operation, allowing field officers sufficient freedom to adapt the program to the particular circumstances in the respective host countries.

Food, Shelter, Clothing

Procurement of all supplies is done centrally at headquarters; distribution in each country is by the field supply officer. All the refugees eligible for relief are registered—and basic rations are issued only to the holders of ration cards. The basic ration to an adult refugee consists of flour, oils and fats, pulses, sugar and rice; in winter there is a supplement of dates and pulses. Daily value is 1500 calories.

UNRWA undertakes to provide shelter, but has never been able to budget for clothing and the refugees have to rely entirely upon voluntary donations from abroad. Provision of layettes for the 25,000 children born each year is a special part of the problem with which the Canadian Red Cross helped in 1953. Clothing is donated by many organizations in many parts of the world, among them church groups and Save the Children Fund.

Health Services

The basic concern of the medical services of UNRWA is to maintain an average standard of health among the refugees. This is not easy: climate is often unkind, endemic foci of malaria and other tropical diseases are only too numerous, and water is almost a luxury. About 33 per cent of the refugees live under canvas in overcrowded conditions, in camps holding 400 to 17,000 people. Environmental sanitation problems are therefore of unusual dimensions.

June 15, 1954

ENJOY
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The headquarters of the Health Division includes a chief, epidemiologist (malariologist) and a public health engineer supplied by WHO; in other words, the technical direction of the health program is the responsibility of WHO. Other technical and administrative personnel are engaged by the Agency.

Work in each of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Gaza is headed by a field health officer assisted by a field nursing officer, camp and sanitation officer and medical supply officer. The basic medical unit is the camp clinic, under doctors with nursing staff. Total staff now exceeds 1,800.

The volume of work is tremendous; in the year ending last June 6,783,736 attendances at the clinics were reported. Eye complaints were the most frequent. This actually reflects efficient case-finding and treatment of two of the most prevalent com-

plaints in the Middle East,—conjunctivitis and trachoma.

The incidence of communicable disease is comparatively low; no cases of cholera, yellow fever, or smallpox have occurred during the past three years. Although the incidence of malaria dropped considerably, only in Gaza was it possible to eliminate it. There is one sanitary labourer per 400 refugees in the camp; his main function is proper maintenance of garbage disposal and care of the privies. Provision of water, both in quality and quantity, is another vital function.

Surveys of the nutritional state of the refugees have been made in four successive years by consultants from WHO and FAO. These have contributed considerably to the balance of the basic ration and have helped to design a supplementary feeding of 500-600 calories, for those who are

designated by the Agency's doctors as below an acceptable health standard. Children receive cod liver oil supplied by UNICEF, which also supplied milk until 1952.

There is a positive program of maternal and child health, including advice to the expectant mother and later, instruction in the care of her infant. Deliveries may take place at home, in the camp lay-in ward or in the hospital. In the first two instances delivery is done under supervision of the village or camp midwife.

A mass immunisation campaign against small-pox, diphtheria and enteric fever is carried out as a matter of routine. Health of young and school-age children receives particular attention. Excellent work in this field is carried out by the Save the Children Fund.

Education

In the organization of educational services, UNESCO plays a part similar to that of WHO in health services. UNESCO employs the chief and deputy chief of the Education Division as well as certain other international personnel, and provides in addition a cash contribution to UNRWA, and the facilities of its gift coupon scheme, through which hundreds of individuals and groups in various countries make small donations for educational purposes.

Schools were started in 1948-49 on a makeshift basis with the help of voluntary organizations and unpaid teachers drawn from the refugee population. But each year the situation has improved. In the school year now ending there have been nearly 100,000 pupils in the UNRWA-UNESCO schools, employing 2,100 teachers. Moreover, UNRWA paid grants to private and government schools on behalf of children attending them.

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F. PROMOLI, *Executive Director*,
FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU,
WINDSOR, Ontario.

There are special funds for training that will lead to employment and removal from the relief rolls,—technical, agricultural, commercial, etc.—and the ILO assists in the direction of the Agency's centres that provide this training. Facilities of the host countries are also used, on a project basis, with UNRWA meeting the cost of refugee training.

A program for teaching adults to read has been broadened into a fundamental education program, with the help of an international team recruited by UNESCO, and under it something is being done to counteract the demoralizing effect of the idleness of camp life that is now in its sixth year.

Welfare Services

The Social Welfare Division of UNRWA until 1953 was responsible for registration of refugees — for determining cases eligible for refugee status and rations—and for milk distribution and the supplementary feeding program. These functions have been transferred, leaving the division particularly occupied with the problems of clothing, placement, case work, and the operation of camp centres with a constructive program.

Sewing centres are operated in the camps, where the women and girls make, or make over, garments. Opportunity is provided for the girls to pursue weaving, embroidery and other native crafts, and assistance is

given to them in marketing their produce. Recreation centres include provision for sports, reading, etc., but are largely dependent on donated equipment.

The Placement Service is handicapped by the fact that the employment laws of Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon practically prohibit the employment of Palestinians, but work permits are readily granted in Syria, and Jordan treats refugees and non-refugees alike.

Rehabilitation

As we approach the end of a three-year program of rehabilitation, started in 1951, for which the UN anticipated expenditure of \$200,000,000, there has been little change in the number of refugees. Their birth rate has been high, and economic absorption in the host countries slow. The prospect of peace with Israel, and return to their former homes, still seems remote,—even though they have been “displaced persons” for approximately the same length of time as the people of the occupied countries in Europe during the Second World War. Children now starting to school have known no life but that of the refugee camp.

Welfare organizations, national and international, public and private, have done much to relieve distress, and to provide a constructive element in the demoralizing atmosphere of refugee life. But the need for their interest and help remains great.

Work for refugees in the Near East illustrates how intricate is the administration of large-scale welfare operation. The authors of this article worked together both on the article and on the refugee work. Dr. Falkland was deputy chief of the UNRWA Health Division until 1952, when he became deputy MOH for Ottawa. Dr. Robbins was chief of the UNRWA Education Division in 1951-1952, and since he came home has been editing the Encyclopedia of Canada.

THE NATIONS CAME TO CANADA—AND STAYED

By MARTHA MOSCROP

THEY come from every hemisphere, east, west, north and south; they have studied us with penetrating eyes, and then returned to their native lands. Nonetheless they remain with us, strangely near. Many and varied are the programs of travel-study arranged under the auspices of the United Nations Fellowship plan, but none closer to the hearts of the nations—to their people, that is—than the program that brings social workers from the ends of the earth to learn of the new world's social welfare accomplishments and aspirations. They have seen the heart of our nation through our eyes, the eyes of their Canadian colleagues.

Though wisdom and realism were never absent in this inter-communication—far from it, indeed—the basic language was the unmistakably clear language of the heart. It is not so strange that they have remained near us. They are our friends.

Cause for Humility

There have been long thoughts accompanying our pleasure in their company, thoughts about the quirk of history that permits the old world—and the ancient world—to learn from the new. There have been, to be sure, some inadvertent lapses from the grace of humility. There was, for example, the time when the dignified man from Greece was being toured through a somewhat derelict office building in a far western city, one of those ugly Victorian edificial blights characteristic of western Canada's early architecture. Informed by his guide that this building, one of the

city's oldest, was sixty years old to the day, the gentleman from Athens said nothing. His Canadian companion, abashed, suddenly thought, and said aloud: "My goodness—what am I saying—the Acropolis!" Her implied apology was gallantly waved aside, of course, but she learned her lesson well.

It was the Fellow from Israel who turned the tables most neatly. Her hostess, inordinately proud of her city's symphony orchestra, asked what her guest had thought about it. German born, the world of great music her solace and delight, her friend from Jerusalem replied with a twinkle of mischief in her eye: "I think, if you will permit me to say so, that your social welfare services are better than your symphony orchestra."

Testing Convictions

Seriously, and on the other hand, that this favoured young nation of ours can offer ideas and methods of value to other nations is a matter to be regarded with some pride as well as humility. That pride is well-founded when it is based on conviction, and conviction, critically arrived at, has been a major requirement in teaching these brilliant Fellows.

Their single ever-recurring question invariably has been: "Why?" When we have, (if we have), answered that question to their satisfaction, which means considering the applicability of the idea to a vastly different setting, our own convictions have been well tested and made rational. In short, we have undergone an immensely profitable intellectual

experience in fulfilling our obligations to the Fellowship program. We begin to know what we know.

Contrasts

Not that our Fellows accepted all our convictions. On the contrary, argument has often been lively. For instance, we told the Fellow from the valleys of the Punjab that the community in Canada, in lieu of the family, was assuming responsibility for the welfare of the aged, our heavy implication being that this was a Good Thing.

"That", said this doctor from Simla, "is really because everybody in the community is thinking about providing for his own old age, and not because of his respect for the present older generation."

Would that these international paradoxes of want and plenty, family solidarity and family precariousness, could be effectively destroyed, and balance achieved. Our Fellows have raised our eyes from contemplation of only *ourselves*, *our* problems and blessings, and have revealed *themselves* and *their* problems and blessings in shattering contrast.

Emissaries from the eastern hemisphere more than others perhaps, have also placed in juxtaposition the manners and morals of East and West, a fascinating intellectual—and gustatory—experience. The clear-eyed assurance which made the Fellow from China at home so quickly made her absorption of facts about our services to women and children equally swift. Our response to her query about our legislation was not, unfortunately, quite as swift, nor as sure. "Have you not among your Acts", she asked, "one which licenses houses of prostitution?" It was an innocent question, requiring a long circuitous reply.

Inner Security

Time, and much of it, was also required for the thorough enjoyment of a repast of Chinese dishes, painstakingly ordered by our gracious Chinese lady to repay hospitality extended to her, a needless but delightful gesture. From the moment the bird's-nest soup was consumed ("Why is this delicious soup so named?" "Why, because it is made from the lining of bird's nests!"), every one of the twenty dishes was a delightful excursion into the unknown.

Someone once wrote that mental health began in the stomach. Mental ill health has not been, in the past anyway, a major problem in China. Not only the calories but the ceremonies of food are sources of inner security obviously. Where stand Canadian manners and ceremonies in this important part of family living. But—where stand the calories today in China, we wonder?

"When in Rome—"

Cultural differences have been made real to us in these and other gentle ways, and the reality has been pleasing. It has, however, been the determination of our visitors to do in Canada as Canadians do that has most endeared our Fellows to us. Some did as we do clothed in their

Martha Moscrop, training supervisor in the social welfare branch of the British Columbia Department of Health and Welfare, has met and helped a great many of the UN fellows who have come to Canada. Her article suggests how much we can learn from the people who come to learn from us.

own native garb, our own sombrely conventional wearing apparel suffering much in comparison. Some could not, for religious and other reasons, do as we do.

One for example, was precluded from eating with us. She was left resting before a cozy fireplace, cat curled on her lap and magazines on a nearby table, while her hostess had her dinner alone in another room. Never had the sharing of food seemed so all-important a social grace nor solitary dining so solitary. (The hostess's lonely meal came to an abrupt end, by the way, when she realized that one of the magazines she had left for her guest's consumption was *Food For Thought*.)

The Fellows' courageous use of the English language won our greatest admiration. One, the gallant Fellow from Sweden, went a little further than was really required, with quite hilarious results. On arrival in Canada he had begged to be taught one or two slang phrases which would help him to form relationships more easily. He had dropped somewhere along the way (probably in Saskatchewan) one rather naughty phrase taught him by an otherwise responsible social worker. But the other got lots of use. To hear, with a vowel-emphasized inflection, the term "holy Nelly", the "holy" repeated on a rising intonation two or three times, was our great delight. His idea for forming relationships worked admirably.

It was, however, a Fellow from Japan who compelled our deepest respect in the matter of the language. A young man in his late twenties, he had learned English in High School a dozen or more years earlier. His letter announcing the day of his arrival concluded with the charming phrase, "Expecting the happy day I

shall see you", and his hosts immediately shared the happy expectation, which was amply fulfilled.

It was he, incidentally, who proved the universality of the problem of adolescence. Visiting the Detention Home, he surprised his charming hosts, the probation officers, by saying that in Japan "teen-aged boys do not steal automobiles. They steal bicycles."

East and West

His colleague, who came later, moved and inspired us most profoundly for quite other reasons than her use of English. She was a nursery school director, whose function was to sow seeds of happiness, hope and kindness in the minds of Tokyo's post-war babies as they grew up. In her, we seemed to be meeting face to face the injury our western world had inflicted. We never alluded to our feeling about this, and our acute discomfort resolved itself into something more bearable as this gentle woman's quiet philosophy, perhaps a little fatalistic, became known to us. Her spirit came out to meet us, certainly, more than half way.

After a day spent in observing social workers at work in a T.B. Sanatorium, she quietly went back that evening, bearing six magnificent chrysanthemum blooms, which she presented with graceful ceremony to the six young Japanese patients, whose birthplace had been Canada. Pride in the nation of one's ancestors is an attribute common the world over, and the beauty of nationhood survives and is nourished by such as she.

Beauty, and courage of a different kind was shown to us by still others who came and who have remained in our hearts. The liquid cadences of

the names of the Fellows from the Philippines heralded their sojourn with us. When they arrived we found that, although tropical languor was certainly not an immediately discernable trait, time had a sweetly inconsequential meaning for them. After we had extricated ourselves from the wreckage of prearranged itineraries, envy set in hard. What slaves to the clock we are in Canada, and how we bustle breathlessly from one appointment to another! Those proud Filipinos learned just as much as others in the end, for they have developed the habit of alertness.

None who came, moreover, have been better public relations people, for they capitalized upon their brief stays with splendid effect by talking publicly and privately about their lotus land, about the inviolable customs and mores of their countrymen. In fact, they almost conveyed the thought that the colonial regimes of two powerful invading nations had never been.

O Canada!

All these good friends were perfect guests in that they were filled with admiration, and sometimes with awe, by our Canadian landscape and took the trouble to say so. One of the most pleasing metaphorical descriptions of Canada came from the serious Fellow from Finland, "Canada", he said, "can only be described in terms of music, of a great symphony: Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces suggest a singing andante movement, the lakes of Ontario the vivacious allegro, the spaces of the Prairies the ponderous largo, the crashing chords of the finale, British Columbia." Finland and the nations near it have lost, in his untimely death, a true nobleman.

June 15, 1954

Down Under

At home with their cousins in Canada, the crisp comfortably realistic Fellows from Australia left behind a lingo which would have warmed their hearts if they had been able to hear us using it. They were rather dangerous people, really, for as they talked to little groups of social workers here and there, the question inevitably was asked: "Could we get jobs if we came to Australia?"—and everyone knows of the shortage of social workers in Canada. In comparison with Australia we are really very well supplied— which brings our hats off in admiration of our Commonwealth colleagues who are doing a valiant "bonza" job of work, continuously interpreting, and gradually introducing, the saving values inherent in professional services.

Good Fellows

"Valiant" is probably the most appropriate single adjective to apply to each and all of the men and women who have come to Canada to learn new ways of doing their tasks for humanity. However perceptive we may have been about the nature of those tasks, it is reasonably safe to say that few Canadians could fully conceive of the magnitude of the responsibility resting on the sturdy shoulders of these UN Fellows. Not only magnitude, but multiplicity, for so many of them are key people upon whose versatility progress in their countries depends.

Ours has been but a small contribution to their wisdom, and yet it has hopefully been of a kind, and certainly given in the spirit, which may serve to hasten world-wide realization of the brotherhood of man.

TEAMWORK AIDS TEENAGERS IN KOREA

By JEAN CAMPBELL

WHEN the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) was established to deal with the wartime devastation, it seemed to have an insuperable problem. Voluntary agencies were all active but the task was beyond their strength and scope. Through the organization of the Korean Association of Voluntary Agencies (KAVA), it was possible to look at the total situation in terms of people: children who were orphans; teen agers homeless and untrained; widows and students. Soon the government and private organizations best equipped to cope with children set up orphanages for children up to 15 years of age. Other organizations experienced in relief work became engaged in special relief projects.

The YWCA was the group which seemed best equipped to meet the dual need of housing and vocational training of Korean teen age girls. It was decided to start a Rural Training project in Tongnae, near Pusan, on a property which had been given to the YWCA by the Australian Mission prior to the war.

Although the buildings had not been damaged by the war, they were being occupied by units of the Korean army. The only facilities available on the property were some chicken coops, some land for gardening, and a few animals. What kind of a training project could be carried on in chicken coops?

Through its membership in KAVA, the YWCA was able to appeal to UNKRA for help in repairing and extending the coops. This made pos-

sible the housing of 35 girls. But housing was only part of the need. Skilled leadership was also needed to direct the training, organize vocational courses and develop a placement service.

Because the Korean YWCA is part of the World's YWCA, it very naturally appealed to the World's YWCA for leadership and financial help. Twenty national associations responded with funds, including the newly organized Gold Coast YWCA in West Africa. The Canadian YWCA was able to recruit a staff member, Miss Barbara Broadfoot.

Miss Broadfoot is a Home Economics graduate from the University of Toronto with experience in teaching and in working with the Women's Institutes in rural Ontario. Here are her first impressions on her arrival in Tongnae in August 1953: "There are fields all around the buildings with vegetables growing. The buildings look quite neat from the outside and there are flower borders all around. The buildings were formerly chicken coops and have been fixed up a bit for a residence. The girls' rooms are bare and five to six girls share each of the rooms. The classroom, dining room and kitchen are all in another building. There is a huge well in the courtyard where an abundance of spring water is always available. There are three or four pigs, four rabbits and over on the hillside two goats."

It was not long until the school was filled to capacity with attractive young Korean teen age girls, full of enthusiasm for the future but undernourished and ill clad. Many had to

be turned away because there was no more room. (The Korean army and the YWCA are negotiating over the buildings being used by the army and it is hoped that they will be available for the school by this spring.)

However the proximity of the Korean army unit to the school was not without its advantages. Just before Christmas this unit laid on electricity for the school. This meant that candles could be replaced by electric lights for a few hours each night, even though the electric power proved to be a little skittish and not too dependable.

The Rural Training School is like a miniature Agricultural College. The courses are practical and include animal husbandry, gardening, reforestation, sanitation, hygiene, cooking and sewing.

Goats, rabbits and pigs make up the animal farm. The animals are raised for food for the school and for sale to the community. The rabbit population has been of great concern, but not for the usual reasons. Because the rabbit population seemed to be static, the U.S. Army provided a vehicle to take one of the rabbits to a nearby Mission for breeding purposes. In due course, some new bunnies were added to the school farm. The latest reports indicate that the rabbit population is still rising, there is a housing shortage, and new

hutches are being constructed with the aid of wire netting ordered from a Sears catalogue. The school has been fortunate in having the help of Agricultural experts from UNKRA and these experts have shown a real interest in the project.

It was soon evident that transportation of some sort was a number one need. The YWCA of the United States and Canada collected enough money to buy a jeep, and through the cooperation of UNKRA it was shipped to Korea.

There are constant battles against the elements in this pioneer project. In a recent letter Miss Broadfoot says "last week we had a torrential rain. The top soil was being washed down the hills in carload lots. We were lucky to have the winter barley, cabbages, spinach and garlic growing in the fields or the whole surface would have been lost. We are buying trees this year, and we have some Manitoba maple plants which are ready to set out when it is warmer. We ought to have a better chance against erosion next season."

The School is staffed entirely by Korean leaders with the exception of Miss Broadfoot, and it is hoped that in another year the leadership will be all Korean. The interpreter is a young woman of 27, a graduate of Ewha University in Korea. The agriculture teacher is a graduate in animal

Miss Campbell, the author, has been on the National Staff of the YWCA in Canada since 1947, working closely with the overseas staff and preparing interpretative material about Y World Service work. Miss Broadfoot, whose letters have supplied much of the material for the article, spent the first twelve years of her life in China, speaks Chinese, and is learning Korean.

husbandry and has real leadership ability. A young woman doctor, a graduate of Severence College in Seoul, teaches the students hygiene and is the medical officer for the school in addition to administering her own hospital.

The sewing instructor shares her skills generously with the students so that they will be able to pass on their training to others when they leave. The first sewing project was pyjama-making. The girls had no night-wear this fall, and when a gift of flannelette arrived from the Australian YWCA, pyjama-making became a number one priority. As there were only two sewing machines, it took a long time, but it was worth it, and the girls were all so proud of their first sewing efforts. The class is now learning

dress designing from an experienced Korean teacher and this course will equip them to earn a living when they leave school.

The cooking class deals with all kinds of Korean cooking and marketing. The girls are also getting practical experience in sharing responsibilities for certain aspects of the housekeeping arrangements. Explorations are at present being conducted into the possibility of making ovens. Koreans are very fond of bread but the Korean stove is not equipped for baking. Part of the grain ration at present is in the form of flour instead of rice and it has caused much concern as the people do not know how to use the flour. The school is trying to improve the bread-making technique.

Extra-curricular activities are part of the life of the school, due largely to the cooperation of a U.S. Army unit nearby. One of the privates, a physical education teacher in civilian life, supervises recreation periods three times a week. The U.S. Army has shared some equipment such as volley-balls, quoits and other games. Already there is a difference in the girls' appearance.

The neighboring Korean army unit was responsible for one of the most important projects of the year. The unit asked the school to put on a Christmas play which was so successful that it was presented on several occasions to community and church groups, as well as to army units, including two amputee hospitals. The Korean army supplied money for make-up and costumes, and the U.S. Army provided suitable records

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A sewing class in progress in Korea. Miss Broadfoot with her back to the camera.

including Beethoven's 5th Symphony, the Hallelujah Chorus, Hungarian Rhapsody, Ave Maria and Christmas Hymns.

Because the students arrive at the school without adequate clothing, the basic needs have been many. Warm clothing, bedding, soap, tooth brushes, candles, towels, socks, wool, thread and materials. YWCA members around the world have been packing "Kits for Korea" all winter, including these much needed commodities.

Through the generous contributions of twenty national YWCAs, it is possible to continue this project for a second year. Contributions have come from many other sources too. The first two goats were the gift of Church World Service, which has also provided sugar, soap, rice, vitamins, milk and clothing. The American Korean Foundation was responsible for the two sewing machines which made sewing classes possible. The daily milk supply is a gift from

UNICEF. Food and clothing packages have come from CARE. The Canadian Mission in Korea and church groups in Canada have been generous contributors to the project. Other gifts from the U.S. army have included wood, fertilizer, DDT, a piano, films and records.

The Korean Association of Voluntary Agencies has been a real source of strength. Representatives of United Nations staff attend the regular meetings along with representatives of all the voluntary agencies. This group deals with such urgent questions as methods of getting relief goods through customs more speedily, ways of preventing the pilfering of parcels, and how to obtain excess army material.

Arthur N. Rucker, Chief of the European Regional Office of UNKRA, has written the following statement about the work of the voluntary agencies in Korea:

"Quite apart from the spiritual aspect of their work, the voluntary workers are in constant and close touch with Korean men and women and children in all walks of life. They can, in these personal contacts, demonstrate in a very special way the goodwill and sympathy of other nations towards Korea.

"I do indeed believe that volunteers, working among the Korean people, can make a contribution to the recovery and happiness of the country of a kind which can be made only with difficulty, if at all, by an international organization, concerned as it must be with large scale, economic problems.

THE STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

By ELIZABETH S. L. GOVAN

SOCIAL work stands or falls on the skill of the social worker in his relationships with people. International social work must do likewise. But the relationships here are between people bred in different cultural patterns so that the ability to understand each other is handicapped by difficulties in communication, difficulties based not only on language but upon ideas and attitudes. The stranger in the strange land finds so often that he is "speaking a different language" since language is merely a vehicle of his thinking and his feeling. How then can he be a helping person?

And since all technical assistance to other nations must also be conveyed through the medium of communication, does the same question not have to be asked of all "foreign experts", regardless of their field of expertness?

My experiences in the role of a foreigner have made me very conscious of the importance of this question.

Last year, when I went to Iraq, at the request of its government and under the auspices of the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations, I found myself welcomed and respected as a stranger who, just because he was a stranger, was entitled to the hospitality and friendliness which are among the highest virtues in the Moslem world.

The Stranger is a Guest

In one of the books I had been reading to aid me in my understanding of the new world into which I was stepping, I had been instructed that among Arabs differences were publicized by dress and by speech so that each could readily recognize

those differences, and neither embarrass nor be embarrassed in conversation and customs. The Arab's background of desert life and of the unfriendliness of nature to the traveller has taught him over the centuries to make the stranger welcome, share with him whatever he has (and often more than he can afford), and send him on his way in safety: who knows when he himself may have a similar need from other strangers? Urban life has not broken down this tradition, and the Westerner who becomes a guest in Iraq has much to learn about the true spirit of hospitality and of tolerance.

To a Western mind, Arab hospitality may seem to be carried too far. My students assured me, when I was pleading for simple refreshments at a College party: "But you do not understand; when an Iraqi invites one person for a meal, she must cook for ten. She is negligent as a hostess if her table does not appear as heavily laden at the end of a meal as it was at the beginning." When I was invited to a private home, the family car or a taxi was sent for me, and once when I ordered a taxi myself I found myself beaten down by the taxi driver who insisted that the cost must be charged to the person I visited.

In my own hotel, when an English friend dropped in uninvited for tea, and insisted that she should pay, the hotel "boy", because he knew what was right, interfered: this was my home and I must pay. If a friend happened to get into the same bus as I, he or she must pay my fare: was I not a guest in the country?

And when I went visiting with a

nurse in a very poor district, each family managed to find a cigarette for me, to demonstrate its friendliness and hospitality.

Differences are Respected

Foreigners were recognized as being different, and their differences were in large part respected. Perhaps this respect arises from the fact that for centuries the Middle East has been the highway between the East and the West; perhaps from the familiarity with tribal distinctions to which it has been long accustomed. The attitude was put into words by an Iraqi who wished me to do something which I knew would be unacceptable behaviour for an Iraqi woman. After considerable thought about my refusal he said to me: "But you do not understand. In this country anything a foreigner wishes to do is right for him."

Respect for differences could become frank enjoyment of differences. On a public bus one day, a group of my students tried to teach me some Arabic. I made noble efforts to repeat the sounds which my tongue would not master. The other passengers gathered around us and broke into gales of laughter at my attempts. The driver threw his hands in the air and roared. Yet there was no feeling of embarrassment on either my part or theirs: we were enjoying our differences together.

Some Differences are Unacceptable

Yet some things were too strange or too antagonistic to the culture to be acceptable. Just as mosques were too holy to be desecrated by the feet of an unbeliever, certain traditions are too deep-rooted to be flouted. A woman in shorts, slacks, or a sun-back dress created hostility, not only

toward herself but toward other foreigners who permitted such behaviour. The steady round of foreign cocktail parties, in a country in which the predominant religion banned the use of alcohol, was constantly the subject of criticism. The fact that I did not wash my hands and face and the inside of my mouth with soap before and after any meal called into question my cleanliness, the doubts quickly hidden by politeness.

Such habits could not overrule the basic virtues of friendliness and hospitality but the sensitive foreigner tried to respect the boundary lines drawn between what could be tolerated and what was distasteful. Lack of acceptance would be reflected not only in attitudes to the individual but to foreigners in general, since the knowledge of other cultures was insufficient to enable Arabs to distinguish between the bad manners or indifference of the insensitive or eccentric person and the characteristic behaviour of people from the country he represented.

The Guest and not the Friend

In large part the hospitality was to the stranger and not to the friend. Iraqis would discuss many things

Dr. Govan is Director of Special Projects for the Canadian Welfare Council. She is fitted by her practical experience, her teaching experience in Canada and Australia (where she was Director of the School of Social Work at Sydney), and her broad studies in Toronto, Oxford and Chicago, to examine critically the difficulties of offering helping hands to other countries.

with me—poetry, religion, economics, politics, world affairs. Seldom did they discuss personal things, although there were exceptions. Traditions and cultural patterns, family relationships—these things were too personal to permit sharing them with a stranger who could not understand. Loyalty to the family, to culture and to tradition was too great to allow the things that really mattered to be brought out into the open for possible questioning.

In moments of stress, I was excluded. I shall always remember a lecture hour at the College on a day when the other colleges were threatening to force my students to join a strike. Several times I tried to break through the grey wall of fear which hemmed them in. I suggested a discussion of the problem, well aware that the girls were incapable of hearing one word of the lecture I had been attempting to give. There was a dead silence, until one girl put into words the feeling of them all: "There can be no meeting of minds this morning." She was completely right. In their extreme need for group support I, the stranger, could give no help.

Loyalties

When we knew each other fairly well, the students were able to talk to me freely about the facts of their culture, but I was wary about attempting to ask about their feelings. Girls confided to me that certain of their classmates were "overprotected" by their families, not using the term in its psychological meaning but emphasizing the degree of restriction placed upon the girl by her family, to explain to me the need for the greater support they gave her. Girls who were refused permission by their conservative fathers to take part in certain activities never voiced to me a

word of protest. On only one occasion did one of the students give me any indication of resentment toward her family: I, conversationally, on a wet street corner, said to her that her "abba" must serve as an effective raincoat when a shower fell. With extreme bitterness, she answered, "There is no conceivable use for an 'abba'; I only wear one because my family makes me."

Foreigners in General

These attitudes toward the foreign person were different and separate from the attitudes toward foreigners in general, or to the specific country from which the foreigner came.

Among the educated group, with whom, because of the difficulty of language, most of my contacts had to be, the attitude to Western culture was one of admiration, often undiluted by critical thinking. So many of those who had been in foreign countries wanted to emigrate; they wanted to share the type of life which the West has established, and which they had generally seen only as a student or a casual visitor so that they were less acquainted with its defects than with its amenities. They seemed to feel that they could never achieve a semblance of that kind of life in their own land.

The personal desire to change some of their traditional ways was held in strong check by community attitudes.

I was told that strenuously as a girl might rebel against a marriage planned for her, her rebellion would only be within the family group, since she could never show publicly her "disloyalty" to her father.

Men who lived in the West for a number of years and had married foreign wives, returned to Iraq to force their wives to conform to Iraqi customs. "The community would

blame him if anything happened to me", one American wife told me, "so that I cannot go out at night unless he is with me; I cannot have dinner at your hotel, because an unaccompanied woman cannot be seen at an hotel; I cannot meet a foreign man unless my husband is with me. When I made this appointment to see you and told him, he said: 'Did you ask my permission?' In America he was quite willing to let me do all these things, but in Iraq he again becomes an Iraqi, and I cannot do them."

So the foreign woman, because she has identified herself with the Arab, has to conform. How much harder for an Iraqi woman to overthrow the traditions of her own country!

At the same time Iraq wants foreigners to think well of it: Iraqis are frightened that the West might not think them "civilized". At one student party when everyone helped herself with meticulously clean fingers to a portion of the luscious lamb, roasted whole and stuffed with rice—and at which one of the teachers who had spent four years in the United States felt it necessary to explain to me that she had just washed her hands—I produced my camera. There was a friendly but prompt reaction: "Don't take this because everyone you show it to at home will think that we always eat with our fingers." The following day, when the same group were entertained for a western meal, they demonstrated how unaccustomed they were to knives and forks.

Western contacts and Western movies have made them self-conscious, have taught them that they are "different", with differences they had not recognized before. Perhaps they have been told too many times by the "superior" West how many

centuries behind the times they are! They are, in a sense, like children trying to conform, without fully realizing that cultures can be different, and that Eastern cultures have their own values, often superior to those of the West.

Concern with Appearances

This self-consciousness has made them concerned with appearances, rather than basic values. Only cars of recent vintage may drive down the main street of Baghdad. A person should not own a car unless he can also employ a chauffeur, since driving is manual work and would reflect on his status. Only highly educated persons, regardless of their lack of knowledge or experience with the subject under discussion, can represent the country at an international conference, because they must demonstrate that Iraq has highly educated people. Dirty lanes must be hidden by hanging mats when a distinguished visitor drives down a street.

This is a national version of "keeping up with the Jones", when the Jones' do not live next door but in another country. Is the West, with its emphasis upon material things, conveying the impression that appearances are the important point? Or is it necessary in a changing culture that the concern about appearances should come first, to be replaced gradually by realities?

Fear and Hence Conflict

Yet foreigners and the countries they represent are to be feared, and not without reason. While foreigners may be admired, they are also thought of as self-interested "empire builders", interested in the country only from the point of view of what advantages can be won for themselves or for their country.

The memory of eight hundred years of foreign control is not a happy one. The contact with the West through the business interests at the turn of the century, the war of 1914-18, the mandate under the League of Nations, and, since its independence, through foreign investment and contracts, the Palestinian situation, and foreign relations in general, have all left the strong impression that self-interest dominates the concern of foreign countries with Iraq.

It is a small people, caught in the turmoil of international affairs. Iraqis have only recently—and as yet incompletely—been able to think of themselves as a people with a country of their own. Yet because of the presence of oil, and because of the geographic location of the country, they find themselves a centre of foreign interest.

The hostility toward foreigners may be directed chiefly at one country or another by different individuals. The words "adviser" and "freedom" are not popular because they are associated with two foreign countries. Yet, amazing as it may seem, this undoubted hostility—the generalized attitude toward foreigners—is something completely separated from the friendliness toward the individual foreigner. The Iraqi discusses frequently with his foreign friends what he thinks of foreigners, clearly making the distinction between the personal and the general.

Iraq has also reason to fear the social upheaval, the cost in human suffering, which change must inevitably bring. The concentrated impact of foreign cultures upon the East is something to be feared. The agrarian revolution in England and the industrial revolution following it, were in truth revolutions which made their

effect felt throughout every corner of the economic and social pattern of the times.

The impact of different cultures on Iraq, the increasing knowledge of other ways of doing things, the determined effort to "modernize" the country in its economic, political and social life: these things, induced not only by growth from within but by pressures from without, can be expected to bring confusion, conflict and untold misery. Perhaps pain and suffering are implicit in growth, and yet excessive pain can cause complete disintegration.

The Need for Technical Help

While they may distrust foreigners and foreign influences, the leaders in Iraq recognize the need for the technical help which foreigners can supply. They are conscious of their own lack of technical knowledge and skill, and have through the twenty years of their independence been trying to remedy it by the use of foreign personnel and by the training of Iraqis abroad. The recognition of the need brings a feeling of inferiority which quickly can breed resentment of the foreigner upon whom the country must depend.

This is the conflict of a young nation, old in its civilization, young in its nationhood, wanting to be independent and yet forced to be dependent, suspicious of the motives of the foreigner and yet forced to ask for his advice.

The "Foreign Expert"

What does this mean for the "foreign expert" who goes to this or any other country at the request of the government? Or to the organizations which are offering such technical assistance?

As a social worker, I return to my

basic principles of social work. The people of any such country are analogous to an individual in trouble who comes to the social worker for help.

The "expert" must respect the people of the country, as he would the individual, with its own inner drives and conflicts, its own cultural values and traditions, its own goals. He must recognize the right of the country to determine where it wants to go, and how it can use his help. He can bring from his greater knowledge in the field of his competence a new approach to a problem, a new skill in solving it: but he must leave to the determination of the country whether and with what adaptations it wants to accept his ideas.

He must recognize that his own cultural background makes full understanding impossible for him; that his technical knowledge, great though it may be, is generally not directly applicable; that he cannot tell the country how to do things, but only provide the knowledge and skill which the country must make its own if the results are to be effective: that because

of the basic conflict in accepting help, he must accept hostility (however it is concealed by politeness), rejection of his ideas, unwillingness to act. The ideas must be absorbed by the people of the country and made their own before effective action is possible.

He must also be aware—and afraid—of the suffering and upheaval which the adoption or adaptation of his ideas might produce. He is like a doctor offering a dangerous drug to his patient, knowing that if the patient accepts it, it may bring him tremendous suffering; the doctor only dares even to offer it if he has faith in the ultimate well-being of his patient; and it is of the patient the doctor must think and not of his own interest in producing a particular effect, or testing a theory.

Change is inevitable. Change can be facilitated by outside stimulants. But the foreigner must realize that he comes as the guest of a country, not as a missionary to convert its people to his "way of life, but as a helping person, to give the country the technical assistance it wants to reach its own self-determined goal.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

The International Conference of Social Work is a permanent organization of individuals and agencies which promotes the exchange of information and experience among social workers and social agencies throughout the world.

It is independent, non-political and non-sectarian, and does not undertake activities of an operational nature. As a forum without prejudice, it is able to keep drawing together all the diverse elements in the broad field of social welfare.

Dr. René Sand of Belgium (who died last August) proposed the establishment of an International Conference of Social Work at the 50th Annual Meeting of the U.S. National Conference of Social Work in 1923 at Washington. The first Conference was held in Paris in 1928. Other meetings have taken place in Frankfurt-on-Main in 1932, London in 1936, Atlantic City and New York in 1948, Paris in 1950, and Madras in 1952. The Seventh Conference takes place in Toronto June 27 to July 3, 1954.

RESULTS OF COMMUNITY CHEST CAMPAIGNS IN CANADA FOR 1954

City	Number of Member Services	Population Served	Amount Raised for 1954	Objective for 1954 Campaign	Amount Raised for 1954	Percentage of Objective for 1954	Percentage of Amount Raised for 1954	Per Capita Contribution
Montreal	6	\$ 20,000	\$ 24,582	\$ 28,000	\$ 26,685	95.3	108.5	1.33
Ottawa	8	23,000	38,000	40,000	38,540	96.3	101.4	1.67
Granby	10	52,500	109,068	140,000	119,289	85.2	109.3	2.27
Calgary	25	156,000	362,000	383,000	345,025	90.1	95.3	2.21
Chatham	11	24,000	55,500	61,000	58,627	96.1	105.6	2.44
Clareholm	16	5,000	8,595	8,000	7,200	90.0	83.7	1.44
Cornwall	5	30,000	21,116	23,000	20,244	88.0	95.8	.67
Deep River	7	3,000	5,660	6,000	5,454	90.9	96.3	1.82
Drumheller	8	8,000	7,136					
Edmonton	31	195,000	258,385	282,500	292,500	103.5	113.2	1.50
Espanola	9	4,500	9,000	9,000	9,001	100.0	100.0	2.00
Fort William	9	34,000	44,320	48,000	46,650	97.1	105.2	1.37
Galt	8	20,000	37,793	44,000	41,500	94.3	109.5	2.02
Granby	4	26,000	31,280	36,000	34,052	91.8	108.8	1.30
Guelph	11	34,000	44,662	60,000	51,280	85.4	114.8	1.50
Halifax	18	95,000	140,250	165,000	163,500	99.0	115.8	1.72
Hamilton	29	217,000	431,570	468,756	471,300	100.5	109.2	2.17
Hull	11	43,000	36,039	44,100	44,697	101.3	124.1	1.04
Joliette	20	19,487	36,605	36,000	41,087	114.1	112.2	2.10
Kelowna	15	10,500	19,029	21,450	21,740	101.3	114.2	2.07
Kingston	12	50,000	66,300	77,000	70,000	90.9	105.5	1.40
Kirkland Lake	10	18,400	32,095	40,000	31,380	78.4	97.7	1.70
Kitchener-Waterloo	17	60,000	174,000	180,000	176,400	98.0	101.3	2.96
Lachine	6	32,045	20,271	20,000	23,968	119.8	118.2	.74
Lethbridge	18	26,000	52,500	60,475	63,875	105.6	121.6	2.46
Lindsay	7	9,000	13,400	12,400	13,100	105.6	97.8	1.45
London	12	120,000	237,000	300,000	247,002	82.3	104.2	2.06
Lloydminster	8	3,000	New Chest	8,000	6,006	75.0	-	2.00
Montreal Welfare Federation	26	275,000	1,424,000	1,675,000	1,465,000	87.4	102.8	5.32
" Federation of Catholic Charities	25	90,000	525,002	563,000	533,334	94.7	101.5	5.92
" Federation of French Charities	33	700,000	1,403,428	1,400,000	1,507,019	107.6	107.3	2.15
" Federation of Jewish Charities								

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Charities.....	33	700,000	1,403,428	1,400,000	1,507,019	107.6	107.3	2.15
" Federation of Jewish Community Services	7	85,000	475,000	475,000	470,000	98.9	98.9	5.53
Moose Jaw.....	11	26,000	34,599	40,000	38,000	95.0	109.8	1.46
New Westminster.....	8	32,000	63,000	65,000	62,500	96.1	99.2	1.95
Niagara Falls.....	9	49,000	59,000	70,000	69,000	98.5	116.9	1.40
Norfolk County (Simcoe).....	6	42,000	23,500					
Oshawa.....	16	45,000	121,190					
Ottawa.....	24	204,000	430,470					
Peterboro.....	10	40,000	90,800					
Port Arthur.....	11	34,348	43,020					
Preston.....	9	8,000	16,075					
Quebec City.....	34	295,997	286,898					
" Joint Services.....	3		23,153					
Regina.....	19	72,500	108,747					
St. Catharines.....	18	80,000	New Chest					
St. Jerome.....	11	23,250	31,778					
Saint John.....	8	70,000	74,000					
St. Thomas - Elgin.....	12	40,000	22,179					
Sarnia.....	11	34,000	65,244					
Saskatoon.....	16	56,000	69,631					
Sault-Ste. Marie.....	8	45,000	32,990					
Sherbrooke - Lennoxville.....	5	60,000	24,259					
" Campagne de Charite	10		30,058					
Stratford.....	7	19,300	29,850					
Sudbury.....	14	50,000	113,500					
Toronto.....	66	1,088,885	2,708,429					
Trail.....	30	15,000	62,834					
Vancouver.....	41	446,590	1,131,000					
Victoria.....	16	125,000	153,670					
Whitby.....	8	5,800	5,584					
Windsor.....	11	140,000	330,000					
Winnipeg.....	29	347,300	700,735					
Totals.....	923	5,983,402	13,029,879	14,753,868	14,010,614	95.0	107.5	2.34

NO REPORT

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AN EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY HEALTH

By ZENA HARMAN

SINCE the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, 750,000 new immigrants have entered the country, over 300,000 of them from the Middle Eastern countries. The majority of these arrived impoverished, many illiterate and unschooled. They had been accustomed to the more primitive forms of living prevalent in the countries of their origin. They must acquire a new language and release themselves from the patriarchal domination of the family. Whilst many of them are imbued with a deep religious fervor and have a sense of participating in a historical undertaking, few are conscious of the need for any special personal effect nor are they intellectually prepared for it.

Since the establishment of the State, immigrants come largely from Eastern Europe, the remnants of those who survived the Nazi onslaught. Most of them understand the implications of living in a modern society, but many have suffered such gruelling experiences that their main concern on arrival in Israel is to establish themselves and their families as rapidly as possible, with little time or thought for the next door neighbour.

People of some thirty or forty different backgrounds, cultures and countries of origin must learn to live together in the dynamic society of new Israel. Old customs and traditions must be abandoned or readapted to the new situation. Housing must be provided and employment opportunities made available. Basic requirements for healthy family living, such as hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and

eating habits, often have to be learned for the first time.

The Government of Israel pursues an active social policy, which finds practical expression in a variety of services, both at the national and local levels. Social progress, however, is achieved primarily through local action. As soon as a new community finds leaders within itself it may apply for local council status and assume responsibility for its own welfare and social and economic development.

In addition, there are many voluntary and quasi-official bodies active in the wider social welfare field, which provide a variety of services. The "community-mindedness" of both the Israeli Government and Israelis is imbibed from strong traditions inherited through generations of Jewish history. Absorption and integration programs, have resulted in the acceleration of activity at the community level. A number of interesting experiments are being conducted throughout the country.

Hadassah Project

Among the most comprehensive and far reaching in its implications is the community health project at Beit Mazmil, a newly built popular housing estate on the western outskirts of Jerusalem, nestling in the rugged beauty and grandeur of the hills of Judea. This scheme is being undertaken by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, which has initiated a number of important medical services in Israel.

Five hundred families are included in this pilot project, comprising

mainly immigrants, more than half of whom originate from Oriental communities, the rest from Europe, chiefly Rumania, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Almost four out of five heads of families are manual workers, skilled or unskilled, with a sprinkling of professional men. The average apartment comprises two or two-and-a-half rooms, plus kitchen, for a family of from four to eight persons. Those accustomed to higher standards of living have transformed them into decent homes, whilst the others must be taught cleanliness and the elements of modern home-making.

Five hundred additional families, living in a housing scheme for Histadruth veterans (trade union members), will shortly be incorporated in the scheme. Thus in the one-thousand-family project will be included recent immigrants from primitive countries, recent immigrants from developed countries, and established residents.

The focus of work in the Centre is family health, in its widest connotation: assisting and strengthening the family as a unit. The philosophy underlying this project is based on the relationship of health to social, psychological, economic and physical environmental factors. Responsibility is assumed for the health of the environment, as well as of the individual. This demands the closest cooper-

ation of all the government and voluntary agencies engaged in work in the village.

How it Works

A basic team comprising one family physician, two family nurses, one social worker, one health educator and a secretary, is available for each 250 families. The team as a whole tackles promotive, preventive, diagnostic and curative medicine, taking into account the influence of the family and the total environment on the well-being of the individual.

The physician, nurse and social worker of the unit work with the family at home and with members of that same family when they visit the Centre, in the maternity and child welfare clinic, in the school, place of work or elsewhere. The needs of the community and its environment are determined and met through the needs of the individual families.

The health educator, conversely, attends to the needs of the community as a whole and through it reaches out to the smaller group, the family and the individual.

The family nurse is the pivot of the team, because she is in closest contact with the 125 families which are her responsibility. She makes the initial contact, is present at medical examinations, and carries out the follow-up. She visits the children at school and comes to the family's aid

Mrs. Harman, wife of the Consul General of Israel in New York, is adviser on social affairs in Israel's delegation to the United Nations. Here she tells of a project designed to do a comprehensive health job, and in doing it to "bring the community to a realization of its ultimate responsibility for its own health . . ." "The spirit of mutual aid and mutual responsibility," she says, "has animated the work of Jewish resettlement in Israel since its commencement at the turn of the century".

when members fall sick or find themselves in difficulties.

The doctor is the leader and guide of the team, and in addition to being physician to his families, also conducts family health sessions and community discussions.

Truly International

The first three physicians have come from South Africa, where they were engaged in family health work. The public health nurses were trained in the Hadassah Nurses School in Jerusalem. The psychiatric social worker at the disposal of the team is an American, and so is one of the health educators. The secretary, responsible for records and administration at the Centre, was born and educated in Jerusalem, is thoroughly familiar with local conditions and speaks a number of languages.

Collaboration

The whole project is closely linked to the Hadassah University Hospital on which it relies for consultant services in all branches of medicine, including laboratory examinations, surgery and hospitalization.

Problems requiring specialized attention and knowledge, such as nutrition, epidemiology, statistics, sanitation, social assistance, mental hygiene and others, are met in cooperation with the relevant departments of the Hebrew University and Government Ministries.

The building for the Centre was made available by the Kupath Cholim, the Worker's Sick Fund of the Federation of Labour (Histadruth).

Self-Help Again

A major objective of the health educators is educational, mainly to bring the community to a realization of its ultimate responsibility for its own health, to stimulate a desire for higher standards. Representatives of

the Community Council meet monthly with the Health Centre staff to determine policy, and the health educators sit as members of the Council. It is hoped that the Health Centre will thus become an undertaking of the community and not for the Community.

Teaching and Research

The project in its early stages has many of the aspects of applied research. It deals with persons in varying stages of cultural development, many suffering from psychological and social maladjustment due to the ignominious treatment meted out to them in their countries of origin, dramatic experiences, and the new demands of adapting to an unfamiliar way of life. A UNESCO research project on the relief of family and community tensions, as part of a study on social tensions in the Middle East, is being conducted in this same village.

The project is being used for teaching purposes, providing practical training, for students of medicine, nursing and social work, in the significance of family, economic, social, psychological and physical environmental factors in health and disease. It also holds much interest for the social anthropologist.

The emotional and sociological factors of Israel's environment are in many respects unique. This wide and comprehensive approach to health needs in the growth and development of a community, represents a concerted effort to help people understand their own problems and responsibilities in coming to terms with themselves and their environment.

Good health, mental and physical, is after all essential to a full and creative life, and the best assurance of a stable and flourishing community.

SELF-HELP IN CANADA AND DOMINICA

By MOTHER MARY ADELE, M.C.S.A.

DURING my voluntary social work in Dominica, I became acquainted with the social and economic misery in which our people live. To most of the natives, family life is weak. Homes are narrow huts, unfit to promote christian morality. Wages are far below living levels and are often squandered on unworthy objects.

Most of the country girls have to come to town to earn a living by working in shops and factories. These girls have to find lodging with strangers in overcrowded huts which lack space for privacy and healthy living. Worst of all is the plight of our domestic servants. They are paid 25 cents a day and many of them have to find accommodation for the night elsewhere.

There is also the problem of juvenile delinquency. Education is handicapped in Dominica by lack of adequate accommodation for all the children of school age, especially for boys. These roam the streets trying to earn their meals by doing little chores for the people but also often through little thefts. Most of them leave school at the age of 13 years. At that most critical period they have nothing to influence them but their own immoral environment. After a short time the good principles they have learned in the school are suppressed by the bad examples of their surroundings.

These are only a few of the many socio-economic problems of Domin-



Credit Union Day in the Girls' High School.

ica. Broken homes, hunger, malnutrition, diseases, untimely deaths and immorality are undoubtedly the results of these unhappy conditions. The only way to give our people a better existence is to lift them to a higher economic standard. Since there are no social securities in Dominica to help the people, the best method seems to be to teach them to solve their own problems through self-help and co-operation.

An Observation Tour In Canada

A wonderful opportunity was given to Mother Mary Alicia and myself when, through the Government of Dominica, a United Nations Fellowship was obtained to study co-operatives and community development for 5 months in Canada in 1953.

The study brought us to Antigonish, N.S., where we followed a four weeks' course at the Extension Department of the St. Francis Xavier University. We were most fortunate to study from close by the Antigonish Movement, which is known all over the world for its democratic techniques of bringing social justice into the world through adult education and co-operation.

After the short course was completed we made study trips through the industrial area of Cape Breton. Our visits to the various credit unions convinced us that they were responsible for enabling the people to

achieve many of the economic advancements that have been made in Nova Scotia in the last few decades.

We visited Tompkinsville where through the encouragement and guidance of a parish priest, Father Tompkins, the coal miners built their own houses.

In Three Rivers we met a priest, the Rev. Canon Chamberland, who helped to build not less than 200 duplex houses for his parishioners. In Ottawa we visited a site where 30 co-operators were building their own homes under the direction of Father Marocco.

In order to give ourselves a better idea of adult education in Canada, we attended the People's Schools in Sydney, N.S., where the adults, mostly coal miners and steel workers, study and discuss practical problems. The great contribution of the People's School is to make people aware of the difficult problems of the day which must be solved by the people themselves.

We were also welcome guests at the Kitchen Meetings where a few families gather in the kitchen of one of them to discuss in an informal way what can be done to promote or improve co-operatives in their locality in order to meet the economic problems of the people in the neighbourhood.

We spent a full week in various fishing villages along the coast of Cape Breton. In all the places we visited we found the St. Francis Xavier Extension formula worked out. This formula is adult education through economic co-operation. Where the people could not attend the university they have brought the university to the people.

Although our main purpose of study was in the field of co-operative development, we also looked carefully at work being done on other social problems and tried to interpret what we saw in terms of our needs in the West Indies.

In Halifax we visited the John Howard Society, in Toronto the Big Brothers and Sisters, and in various other places the Institutions of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. All these organizations have for aim the reformation of prisoners and their rehabilitation to a normal and respectable life.

We also visited several hostels with a view to finding ways of giving shelter and protection to our young girls who are obliged to earn a living far away from their homes.

We found many high points of interest in other institutions, such as: Children's Aid, Health Departments, Day Nurseries, Orphanages. We attended four Women's Institute gatherings and a Convention of the Catholic Women's League in Ontario, and discussed our Young Christian Workers' Movement with chaplains and organizers of this movement in Toronto and Montreal.

As there is such a crying need in our Island for a thorough training in homemaking based on the Christian concept of marriage, we would have considered our study tour in Canada incomplete if we had not been able to visit the Family Institutes in Quebec, which are characterized by their intensely feminine and domestic pre-occupations. The Domestic Science Service does not limit its apostolate of the family to the field of specialized home economics schools. It reaches out also to young girls and wives who have left school and are struggling with the realities of life.

It is our sincerest wish to put into practice what we have learned and seen in Canada for the greater happiness of our people in Dominica.

How Studies in Canada Have Helped at Home

Many people in Dominica are becoming awakened to our socio-economic problems. One of our first tasks has been to develop leaders who can understand duties towards their fellow men, take responsibilities and shoulder them without fear. A Catholic Social Centre was opened on January 2nd, where these leaders meet regularly and discuss the problems of the Island and where they find the necessary knowledge and inspiration to go out as study club leaders, credit union directors, and so on.

The adult education movement is based on the belief that quite ordinary men and women have within themselves and their community the spiritual and intellectual resources necessary for the solution of their problems.

There were already three credit unions established in Dominica before our study tour in Canada. However, our studies in Antigonish have helped us considerably in perfecting these credit unions and in training leaders in the co-operative spirit and technique.

Thus far at four different places the people are studying credit union principles with the hope of establishing unions in the near future. A class of prospective members of the Roseau Credit Union was opened in February. There are 240 on the roll, of whom 98 per cent are present at the weekly classes. Most of these attending the class belong to the low-

income group of the community. Everyone has an opportunity to express his ideas and ask questions. It is amazing how many good ideas are discovered in this way.

The three credit unions of Dominica, the first of which was organized after May 1951, have a total number of 892 members. Their total share and savings deposits amount to \$30,000 and they have loaned \$46,000 to their members. Behind the business of these credit unions is a spirit of self help and mutual help. Behind these prosaic statistics are the thrilling stories of homes saved, of families carried over periods of financial distress, of individuals given new spirit for life's struggles.

During the year 1953, in one of the three credit unions, 62 loans were granted for repairs, improvements and buying small houses. The credit unions also give loans for provident and productive purposes. Small business people, not having the necessary capital at hand to order goods, apply to the C.U. for loans to stock their shops. Tradesmen buy tools and machines. Young seamstresses start

Mother Mary Adèle is doing missionary work in the British West Indies as a member of the Belgian Order of the Missionary Canonesses of Saint Augustine. In her article she gives a glimpse of some Canadian activities that make a big contribution to social welfare (although they are usually put under the heading "adult education") and shows how parallel activities are carried on in another land and clime.

on their own buying a sewing machine with a credit union loan. Small planters buy fertilizer and plants for their fields. People losing their job take a loan until they can find some other work.

We have not restricted our work to adult education only. Since the future of Dominica is in the hands of young people, we have started to train the youth to become future leaders in society.

Since we returned from Canada we have established two school credit unions in Dominica and we hope to bring this benefit to more schools of the Island. Our aim in establishing school credit unions is to encourage the youth from early age to develop the habit of thrift, which is so necessary in our Island; to give them an education in the management and the control of money; to teach them a philosophy of mutual concern by making their accumulated savings available to members who need a loan for provident or productive purposes; and above all to train them to take a leading part in community development in their own respective districts upon leaving school.

Although our main object is to improve the economic conditions of the Island, we are well aware that social activities should work hand in hand with these economic projects. We have already established in Dominica four Women's Leagues with the aim of fostering family life.

It is our greatest wish to establish more Women's Leagues not only in the capital but in every district of the Island. The Women's Institute and the Catholic Women's League in Ontario, as also the Family Institutes in Quebec have given us many new ideas to improve our meetings.

A Young Christian Workers' Movement has been started in three different localities. The aim of this youth organization is to be a school, a service and a representative body for our young working girls and boys. It is a school because it completes their education by means of discussion groups on the young workers' problems, such as the use of leisure time, family life and work.

The services which we have organized are based upon their needs. These needs were discovered during a social inquiry and the services grew out of them as a possible solution. The service of a Recreational Centre and the use of a Library were the result of the social inquiry on leisure time. A course on Preparation for Marriage and Happy Homes and a domestic science course were set up after the social inquiry on the family.

We are now discussing conditions of work concerning decency, health, wages and employment. By these means we try to penetrate into all the work places of our Island. Problems which cannot be solved by the personal action of one or two individuals will be studied and tackled by a strongly united group of young people who are determined to obtain social justice and respect for their fellow workers.

These economic and social organizations which we have set up are based upon the experiences in Canada and upon the needs, trends and conditions of Dominica. There is still a wide scope for improving social and economic conditions in our Island, but with the help of our friends abroad and the co-operative spirit which prevails among the inhabitants of Dominica, we have great hopes that our people will lead happier lives in the near future.

Disease that maims and disfigures thousands of people is one of the most distressing human problems. This story tells how local governments, WHO, and UNICEF join hands to fight an all-out war against yaws in Haiti and Indonesia, and explains why and how the campaign is different for each.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST YAWS

By V. VAN ZILE HYDE

FEW medical students in Canada or the United States see a case of yaws during their course of training. Yet it is estimated that more than 20 million people (more than the population of all Canada) suffer from this disease in the tropical low lands of the world, from Indonesia—the classical Indies of the East—to Haiti in the West Indies 180 degrees East or West around the globe.

The Disease

Yaws is one of the most distressing of diseases. Indeed, much of the evil reputation of leprosy probably stems from confusion between the two diseases and their destructive and disfiguring effects. But yaws has its brighter side in its ready response to treatment when treatment and patient can be brought together.

Caused by an organism (*Treponema pertenue*) indistinguishable microscopically from the spirochete causing syphilis, yaws has many similarities to syphilis in its clinical and pathological effects. It differs notably from syphilis in its method of spread and in the fact that it does not attack the heart and nervous system. On the other hand, it has a marked tendency to produce revolting disfigurements of the face, blindness, crippling bone and joint lesions, and painful skin conditions which interfere with ability to earn a livelihood or maintain a home.

The disease is commonly acquired by children before the age of ten years, and is transmitted by direct or indirect contact with a person in an infectious stage of the disease. The painless primary lesion is most often on the ankle, leg, or knee, and is followed in a few weeks by more generalized secondary skin lesions which may last for months or years. The primary and secondary eruptions teem with live organisms, and, under warm moist climatic conditions coupled with primitive housing and minimal personal hygiene, the disease spreads readily. It is noteworthy that heat and moisture are both required: the dry heat of the Middle East and the high equatorial areas of the Andes do not support yaws.

Yaws is not of itself a cause of death, but it cripples children, adolescents, and young adults and is therefore a serious drain on productive capacity, especially in agricultural economies where all hands and feet are needed. It is a menace to community morale and there is political, as well as humanitarian, value in relief from this scourge. Its visibly disfiguring and painful effect on young children is undoubtedly an important factor in community interest in checking its ravages.

Treatment

Yaws was found to be curable with

only a very few doses of salvarsan, but it was the advent of penicillin that brought real hope of widespread yaws eradication. With the previously available drugs, cost, the need for multiple dosage, and the care with which these relatively toxic drugs must be administered, had made mass treatment campaigns in remote rural areas impracticable. As first used in the mid-forties, several doses of penicillin were required, but the development of "respository" penicillin, which is slowly absorbed over a period of days, made mass treatment on a "one-shot" basis possible.

Eradication of yaws still involves major problems of cost, administration, and logistics to which the international organizations, WHO and UNICEF, are devoting important efforts with remarkable success.

WHO and UNICEF

The World Health Organization devoted early attention to yaws as a major public health problem in large areas of the world where local resources were inadequate to cope with the disease. The development of the "one-shot" treatment technique spurred interest to the point that in 1952 WHO sponsored an International Symposium on Yaws, held in Bangkok, Thailand. Experts from around the world met to discuss problems, methods, and achievements and WHO has been most active in developing and consolidating technical information on yaws, at the same time that control programs were being pushed.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also has had a special interest in yaws, because it affects millions of children and because it is responsive to treatment if only the resources can be made available. UNICEF's policy is to concentrate its

assistance on a few widespread diseases which require imported supplies and equipment beyond the means of local governments, and which promise to yield to mass treatment at relatively low cost.

The partnership between these two international organizations is effectively illustrated by the yaws programs in Haiti and Indonesia. WHO, the international health agency, is concerned with technical methods, planning and coordination, and provision of trained health advisers. UNICEF is primarily a supply organization and its contribution to the yaws program has been chiefly penicillin, transportation, equipment, and supplies—costly items needed in considerable quantities.

The Program in Haiti

Haiti, with more than 3 million underdeveloped rural areas, has had a prevalence of yaws exceeding fifty percent in these rural areas. As early as 1941, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (now also affiliated with WHO as its Regional Office for the Americas) made a survey of yaws in Haiti.

A limited program of treatment was started in 1942 by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs, an agency of the United States Government, working jointly with the Haitian Government. Within five years this program was treating more than 240,000 new and old cases per year, using the older drugs during most of this period but testing the effectiveness of penicillin when it became available.

The present program, after several years of study and planning, was initiated by the Haitian Government in 1950. WHO has provided the technical guidance; UNICEF the penicillin and other supplies and equip-

ment; and the Haitian Government has provided the bulk of the personnel. The scattered rural population, difficult terrain, and shortage of physicians made it essential to utilize the simplest possible methods.

Routine treatments were given by rapidly trained auxiliary personnel, and in view of the high prevalence of the disease, it was decided to treat all persons who could be reached. Those with a history of yaws in the past, or with clinical signs of it, were given the full therapeutic dose of penicillin (600,000 units) regardless of age or the duration or stage of the disease. Those with no apparent disease were given half the full dose, to catch early incubating cases, which are prevented from developing by the smaller dose.

Mobile clinics were used at first, but follow-up showed that only 70 percent of the population was being reached. A more effective, though more difficult method was found to be by house-to-house survey and treatment, reaching 95 percent of the people. In one special study of 3,000 people, re-check one year after the house-to-house campaign found no cases of active yaws among the 84 percent of the population reached in the re-check. Conservatively, however, the maximum over-all recurrence rate is estimated at 3 percent after 18 months, so that continued follow-up is needed if the disease is to be fully eradicated.

The magnitude of the job done in Haiti is illustrated by the fact that in 3½ years, 1,685,000 persons were treated, or approximately half the population. In the peak year, 1952, there were nearly 750,000 treatments given. The mass treatment phase of the campaign has now been completed and the less dramatic but im-

portant consolidation phase is in progress. New cases must be found and treated before spread occurs. The trained staff needed for continued surveillance will, hopefully, form the nucleus of a permanent rural public health service in this essentially rural country.

The Program in Indonesia

Indonesia, with an estimated 75 million population spread over a vast chain of islands, is, like Haiti, predominantly rural. The yaws problem differs in important respects from that in Haiti, and the program has been designated to fit these differences.

The areas surveyed have shown a yaws prevalence of only seventeen per cent; if representative, this percentage means a total of 13 million cases in the country. This prevalence rate does not justify a universal treatment program as carried out in Haiti, but rather an effort to examine the entire population, treating all cases and their contacts.

The yaws of Indonesia is, on the whole, of longer standing and is believed to require larger dosage than the early acute cases predominating in Haiti. For the size of the problem, there are even fewer physicians available in Indonesia than in Haiti.

The program is based on teams with three levels of training, work-

Dr. Hyde is a member of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, sharing this honour for North America with Dr. P. E. Moore of Canada. Since 1953, he has been Chief of the Division of International Health, Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

ing out of village polyclinics. The "regular" team consists of six to eight trained male nurses (mantris) working under medical supervision. The mantris work in village clinics, diagnosing and treating cases coming to the clinics, and at the same time training assistant nurses (djuru pateks) in a three months period to diagnose and treat yaws. A group of djuru pateks supervised by a mantri is known as a "simplified" team.

These teams visit villages not directly served by a clinic, and by arrangement with the village authorities systematically examine the population. Those found to have yaws, and household and school contacts are asked to report on a specified day for treatment, which is given under medical supervision. Virtually the entire population in the areas covered is screened but only the ten to twenty

per cent of persons with evidence of yaws (and their contacts) require the attention of the more highly trained mantri or the physician.

The dosage used has been four times that used in Haiti for adults, divided into two doses, and careful work is being done in limited areas to test the long-term effectiveness of smaller dosage and single-injection treatment.

In the first three years of the program nearly six million people were examined and almost 800,000 persons treated. The program has reached a rate of half a million cases treated per year, and with increasing knowledge and experience in the best and most efficient techniques for case findings, treatment, and follow-up, larger and larger areas of this new republic are being freed from this scourge.

Around the World

Yaws is under WHO and UNICEF attack, not only in Haiti and Indonesia, which have been described as examples, but around the world in the Phillipines, Yugoslavia, Iraq, India, and Thailand, and a start is being made in tropical Africa. By the end of 1953, these programs had examined 15 million and treated more than 4 million persons. In addition, the Foreign Operations Administration of the United States is assisting in campaigns in Colombia and Ecuador.

Important as is the immediate relief from the disease itself, perhaps even more vital is the impact on those who experience the magic of penicillin in their own villages. This experience engenders a new confidence in their own health workers which will pave the way for the broader approach to public health so badly needed around the world.

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NEW HOPE FOR THE BLIND IN EGYPT

By ARTHUR NAPIER MAGILL

IN 1951 the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Government of Egypt requested aid from the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration to survey the established work for the blind in Egypt and to outline a program for a training and rehabilitation centre which would serve not only Egypt, but the other Arabic states.

As a result of this survey the TAA, jointly with the International Labour Office, agreed with the government of Egypt to establish a Demonstration Centre for the Training and Rehabilitation of the Blind in Zeitoun, a suburb of Cairo.

The United Nations agreed to provide a team of three experts, one to act as head of the team and Director of the Centre, one an ILO expert in Industrial Employment for the blind and the other a TAA expert in the field of Home Teaching for the blind.

Three Fellowships were to be granted to Egyptian Nationals for training in specific phases of work for the blind and certain limited funds were set aside for the purchase of specialized equipment and material which could not be procured in Egypt.

The Government, on its part, jointly with the Egyptian Association for the Welfare of the Blind, was to provide adequate buildings for the training program and in addition the Government was to set aside an annual budget for current operations.

A Program Begins

During 1952 the Government and the United Nations agreed upon a program for the Demonstration

June 15, 1954

Centre. In January, 1953, I arrived in Cairo, to be followed within two weeks by Miss M. G. Wallis, the Home Teaching expert from England. Two Nationals were already in the United States receiving specialized training; one in general administration as he was being trained as the future Director of the Centre; the other in Home Teaching as he was to act as director of the Home Teaching department. The third National had been chosen but arrangements for his training in the operation of the Braille Printing Department had not been concluded.

The job of the team of experts was to implement the program which had been outlined in the International Agreement and, as far as possible in the period of one year, initiate each phase of the program and train the Nationals eventually to take over the work of development and supervision.

Extending Education for the Blind

Although there were a number of Government and private schools for the blind in existence, they were unable to serve more than approximate-

Students of the Centre reading braille textbooks.

UN Photo



ly 400 students at any one time. The two private schools in Cairo accommodate about 60 young girls up to the age of 21. They too were limited in their facilities and space and all of the schools were constantly faced with the problem of employment for their students after graduation.

The United Nations and the Government has designed a program that was broad in outline and capable of serving large numbers of blind people of every age group. It included a model school for boys between the ages of six and sixteen with a residence accommodation of 128. It was not the intention of the Demonstration Centre to compete with existing schools for the blind, either Government or private, but it was their intention to develop a school program which would be in line with the Ministry of Education's curriculum for ordinary sighted schools.

This meant that for the first time in the history of education for the blind in Egypt, blind children would receive the same standard of education as their sighted fellows and could graduate with a Primary Certificate equivalent to that given in the standard public schools.

The Ministry also agreed that a Secondary school program could be started, leading to a certificate on graduation, which again was a "first" in education for the blind.

Although the census figures of 1947 showed 75,000 blind people residing in Egypt, 10,000 under the age of 16, we were, because of various social patterns, in the position of having to develop a list of children who wished to attend the school. Through the co-operation of the Social Security Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the

newspapers and radio stations the aims and objectives of the Demonstration Centre were publicized and applications began to come in.

On July 27, 1953, we were able to open our school with an enrolment of 24 boys in residence and with a limited number of teachers. New pupils would be absorbed, a few at a time, to give the staff of the Centre a chance to gain experience in the management of a residence and working out the ordinary mechanics of operating a school.

By the end of December, 57 boys were attending the school full time, our teaching staff had increased and our domestic help was sufficiently experienced to manage all the necessary housekeeping.

The school agreed to provide clothing for those children whose parents could not afford it. It also agreed to provide transportation for all students coming to Cairo, as well as medical care while at the school, and free room and board.

The objectives of this model school were, first, to establish a higher standard of education for blind people and, secondly, to generate interest in the establishment of more schools for the blind at the primary level and a minimum of three schools at the secondary level. Both the Ministries of Social Affairs and Education co-operated fully and are vitally interested in the results of the demonstration.

Books for the Blind

Braille printed material is obviously an essential part of an overall program of work for the blind. The International Agreement arranged for the establishment of a complete

Braille printing department to be set up at the Centre. The equipment and material was supplied by the UNTAA which also provided a fellowship in order that an Egyptian National might receive training in the operation of the Braille equipment and management of the Department.

Mr. Nicola Bassili was selected for a training course at the American Foundation for Overseas Blind in Paris and in May 1953 returned to Cairo where he organized a complete printing department which was put into actual operation in July. Before this, very little Braille material was available in the Middle East. Literature that was being used had either been copied by hand or was in a different language. Arabic Braille would eventually be made available in quantity to serve the needs of all the reading blind in the Middle East.

The first job of the Department was to print text books for the use of the model school and for the existing schools for the blind in Egypt and the other Arab States. When this was complete, work would start on the building up of a free lending library of general literature which could be used by all those who were interested throughout the region. By December, approximately 700 volumes had been printed and were available to the school as well as to adults learning to read with their fingers for the first time.

Home Teaching

Although a school was established at the Centre, the general program was intended to be of practical value to the large number of blind adults. It was impossible to gather them all together in any one centre or in a

number of centres, and therefore a home teaching program was included in the broad outline. This program was under the direct supervision of Miss M. G. Wallis, an expert from England.

Her task was to select a group of young women who were capable of being trained in the highly specialized field of teaching blind people in their own homes. When a group had been selected, they were given intensive training for three months. The course included both classroom and shop work as well as training in the field under the direct supervision of Miss Wallis.

During the year 1953 thirteen teachers had been selected and trained and placed in areas where they could be of the greatest benefit to groups of approximately 300 blind persons per teacher.

Real enthusiasm greeted the teachers wherever they went as the blind people in all districts were anxious to learn to read with their fingers, learn to make craft articles and be helped in their adjustment to a life without sight. They spontaneously organized themselves into groups so that more of them could receive benefit from the limited staff that had been trained and was available at the time.

Each Government department working in the rural areas, such as the Public Health Department and the Fellah Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs co-operated in every way possible. By arrangement with the Fellah Department, the teachers were able to live in the rural social centres and use all the facilities of the community for their work.

Employment and Self Support

Employment is one of the big needs of most blind people and a

thorough employment program had been included in the Agreement. Mr. Walter Wagner, ILO expert from Germany, arrived in October to give direction and leadership to the implementation of the program. It had been agreed that a training department should be established which could give special training in hand skills to blind men. Those who graduated from the training department would either be placed in a sheltered shop or, if they were particularly capable with their hands, could be placed in selected jobs in open industry when it was felt they could be employed on a competitive basis with their sighted fellows.

These arrangements could at best serve limited numbers and a home industrial program was planned which could provide full or part-time employment to hundreds. This program would intensify the craft instruction of the Home Teaching Department, and make available to people in their own homes work which they could do either in crafts or assembly processes. The finished products could be sold through arrangement with the various Government departments and private organizations, to provide an income which might make the worker self-supporting, but could at least supplement any other income he might have.

Dr. Magill, totally blind himself, is superintendent of the Ontario Division, Canadian National Institute for the Blind. In 1953 he was borrowed by UN Technical Assistance Administration to set up the demonstration centre described in this article.

As part of the program, a Prevention of Blindness Committee was set up with representatives from the different Government Departments as well as representatives from WHO, the Ophthalmological Society and the Board of Management of the Centre. Their job was to arrive at a practical and satisfactory definition of blindness and recommend this definition to the Government; to investigate the possibility of a national registration of the blind on the basis of their definition; and to promote an overall Prevention of Blindness program. Much of the blindness in Egypt is caused by infections which can be controlled and prevented.

Preparing for Self-Help

The job of the International team of experts was twofold: to put into operation the program outlined in the International Agreement and so to organize the essential services for the blind that they would be practical in terms of benefits to people in their own economy and in their own culture; and to train selected individuals from other Arab States and Nationals who had received some experience abroad on fellowships, so that they could take over the management and operation of the whole program.

When the experts have completed their work in Cairo in 1955, they will have laid the foundation for a constructive overall pattern of work for the blind, a program which can develop into a national organization for Egypt and eventually meet the needs of thousands, and which can be copied in all or in part by the other Arab States served by the regional Demonstration Centre.

REFUGEES

By JOHN DEFRATES

FOUR or five years ago it seemed as if the refugee problem was fast disappearing. The bulk of the displaced persons had been helped to return to their homes, and the movement overseas of those who refused repatriation because of the changed social and political conditions in their own countries was in full swing. Arrangements were made for transferring to governments the responsibility for the maintenance of refugees on their territory.

Experience proved, however, that the refugee situation continued to require active international intervention. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had to report to successive meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations that, of the two million refugees who were his concern, one hundred thousand continued to live in camps, and an additional 250,000 were finding themselves in precarious economic conditions. The fact that new arrivals were crossing the borders into the free world at a rate exceeding that of resettlement made determined international action urgent.

Many of the countries that accepted great numbers of refugees in the early days after World War II have been compelled to curtail the intake of new populations for economic reasons. It has been imperative therefore to find opportunities for refugees to settle down perman-

ently in their present countries of asylum.

A 5-Year Program designed to do this very job—to solve once and for all time the problems of large numbers of refugees—has been devised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and detailed plans will be laid before the United Nations Economic and Social Council when it meets in Geneva next July.

Briefly the program would provide international finance for housing schemes to take refugees from far-off camps and bring them within reach of industrial centres where they could find employment; for people with the necessary experience there would be small business loans to enable them to set up on their own in trades and professions; the unskilled would have the opportunity of vocational training to fit them for the work that is available; students could obtain loans to help them through their courses; and grants would be available for refugee families of farming stock who could be settled on abandoned land in their countries of residence.

Nor would emigration be neglected; the High Commissioner's plan provides for the promotion of resettlement opportunities for some additional 10,000 refugees per year. The great international voluntary agencies would be entrusted with the implementation of these projects, as the

Mr. Defrates was a foreign news correspondent before he joined the staff of the United Nations, where he specializes in writing about refugee affairs. Here he tells about the programs for the immediate relief of distress and for long-term rehabilitation of people who can no longer live in their homelands.

High Commissioner's Office can only act as promoter and coordinator and does not intend to become operational itself.

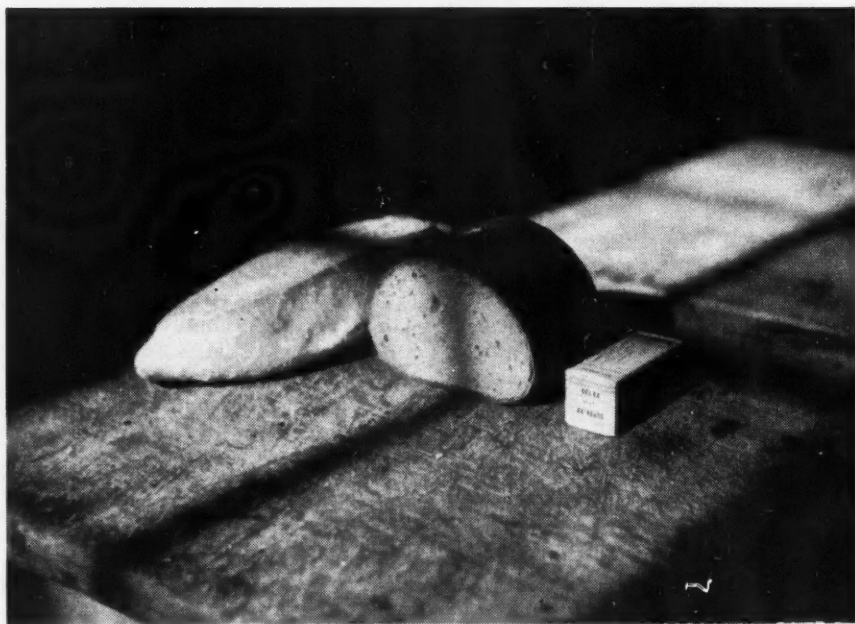
But these long-term plans do not cater for the urgent needs for assistance. Large numbers of refugees are existing in circumstances which call for immediate help. The United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund (UNREF) exists to try to meet these needs.

UNREF was created in 1952 after the United Nations General Assembly gave permission to the High Commissioner to make appeals for voluntary contributions from governments and the general public, and the funds are used to give emergency assistance to the most needy groups of refugees within the mandate.

The money is spent in varying ways. A typical UNREF grant is that

of \$10,000 for supplying clothing and supplementary food to tubercular refugees in Trieste. More than a thousand European refugees stranded in China are entirely dependent for existence on UNICEF. Installation grants are being made as far as possible to place aged and incapacitated refugees in institutions; disabled persons have been provided with artificial limbs.

But even the most urgent demands exceed UNREF's slim resources and the High Commissioner has had to appeal again and again to governments for money. In the last two years, governmental contributions totalling \$830,980 have been received (Canada's share: U.S. \$100,462) but this money has all been spent or allocated and another \$1 million is urgently required to continue the emergency relief programs in 1954.



A refugee's ration for two days compared with a roll of film.

UN Photo

"DRINKING MILK AND LEARNING MUCH"

By ALICE C. SHAFFER

*Chief of the UNICEF Area Office for
Central America and the Caribbean*

ON December 11, 1951, when the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund celebrated its 5th birthday, the school children of Managua, Nicaragua, had a party in its honour. Ordinarily all children in Central America celebrate birthdays with a "pinata"* but this party for UNICEF was new and different.

There, in a sunny patio of a school, hundreds of children took part in a dramatization called "Drinking Milk and Learning Much" while public officials, parents, teachers, interested community leaders and representatives of international agencies watched and listened as the story of the United Nations, and UNICEF's part in it, was presented, through word, and song and dances.

Many Nicaraguans including some pediatricians, were very pessimistic when the first discussions about possible UNICEF assistance with school feeding took place. Everyone agreed as to the undernourishment of the children. There was no question in their minds that milk was good for children nor was there any doubt of the possibility that more milk could be produced in Nicaragua. What they seriously questioned was whether that milk would ever be safe.

"What could UNICEF do", they asked, "to change this situation? Sup-

*A "pinata" is a clay jug filled with candies, and gaily decorated with coloured crepe paper to represent a bird, an animal or other object. A cord is attached to it so that it can be suspended and pulled up and down as the children, blindfolded, try to break it with sticks. Eventually after much suspense, the jug is broken and candies scatter far and wide. There is a great rush as the children scramble about to retrieve the carefully wrapped sweets.

pose dried skim milk supplies were brought in and distributed for a while, could any permanent good come of that?"

Fighting Hunger

The Government through its Ministry of Public Health, obviously believed some good could come, for in November 1949 it requested UNICEF assistance with a school feeding demonstration program and the UNICEF Executive Board approved \$30,000 for that purpose. (It was at that same time that similar programs were approved for the children of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, with British Honduras and Panama included shortly thereafter. Approximately nine million pounds of dried skim milk have been received).

Until 1949 UNICEF's aid to countries had been of an emergency character and was extended primarily to children who needed food, clothing and medicine as a result of the war.

What of children in other areas, such as Latin America, whose malnutrition was not due to an emergency but was rather the result of chronic conditions? Could UNICEF help these children too?

Through action taken by the United Nations General Assembly in 1950, UNICEF's assistance was to be directed more and more toward the development of long-term programs and to include the economically underdeveloped areas of the world.

Central America was considered such an area and included as one in

which UNICEF-assisted programs would be developed. The Governments and the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations agreed that, because of the prevalence of undernourishment and malnutrition as well as malaria, the two basic programs to be initiated first throughout all Central America were school feeding demonstrations and insect control programs.

The basic criterion of UNICEF is that the feeding demonstration programs should stimulate interest in long term plans to be made by a government and to aid it in finding ways to develop and utilize local foods; that the program should help find the way of extending aid to children in rural areas; and that it should be so developed as to capture the interest and the participation of all groups who would join with the international agencies in this large scale co-operative undertaking.

For the first time, the budget of the Ministry of Health contained an apportionment for a nutrition program covering school children as well as a small number of pregnant and nursing mothers and pre-school children.

The Division of Maternal Child Health was faced with many new demands as plans went forward for the initiation of the new program. 45,840 lbs. of dried skim milk arrived at the Port of Corinto in the first shipment received in July 1950. This in itself meant that the supplies had to be transported to the capital where they were warehoused. Costs of transportation, storage, distribution, personnel and other administrative expenses had to be met by the government as a "matching" requirement whereby a government commits itself to put into a program at least an



UN Photo

Carrying milk over the mountains to Guatemala school children.

amount equal to that provided in the allocation made by UNICEF.

The First Snack

The program was started with the help of the health educators who had been trained earlier through projects carried on by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. In the beginning, the Health Educators went from school to school to discuss the program, not only with the teacher but also with the parents, the children, the mayor of the village, the priest and any others whose interest might be gained.

One of these rural schools, not so far away from Managua, the capital, could almost be reached by a main highway except for the last short portion of the road which in the dry season was like a sea of dust and in the rainy season at times almost impassable. The little school was actu-

ally a small Catholic chapel used temporarily for classes until a school could be built.

The teacher was interested, and so was the priest, that these school children benefit from the new feeding program being developed in Nicaragua. But they had no experience of such things and the health educators arranged a visit especially to explain to the teacher and show her how a mid-morning snack could be served to the children.

Arriving at the school late one afternoon, the health educators found the teacher waiting. Very soon she was joined by boys and girls barefoot and dusty, who seemed to be coming out of nowhere, as one could see no houses nearby. However, the children did not stand on the sidelines and watch the procedure. As each one appeared, the health educator found a suitable task to engage his interest and co-operation.

Large kettles for boiling the water and mixing the milk, a well as a hand mixer, had been brought from the Health Department. An open well was found not too far distant, and a pail had to be lowered to bail out the water. It did not take the boys long to help the health educator find the stones on which a fire was laid. There was wood to be found nearby, and after gathering it the children took turns blowing on the fire to get it started. All the while, a most natural and lively conversation was taking place about why the water had to be boiled.

By this time some parents had arrived. As yet they were just curious and observant. It was explained to some of the mothers that once the real program started, margarine would be given also and that it was hoped the school would be able to provide

tortillas on which the margarine could be served. Margarine had been requested by the government to remedy the known Vitamin A deficiency in the diet. Skim milk, although rich in good quality proteins, was lacking in Vitamin A. A large can of margarine sent from Australia stood on the table ready to be opened at a later date.

Now the village mayor had joined the group and he showed a keen interest in knowing what was going on there. He asked what such a program involved, as perhaps the municipality could help a little.

So as the water cooled and the group stood outside the school, there was further talk about securing fuel in order to boil the water, cups for the serving of the milk, and something on which to serve the margarine. Perhaps some sugar for the milk could be obtained too, since the children would like it that way. The mayor said he thought he could help a little, and maybe the parents too.

Now it was time to mix the milk and some of the older boys opened the 200-lb. fibre drum, and carefully pulling the protective paper lining open they looked down on the soft fine, powdered milk.

It was explained to the teacher that a certain measure would, when filled, contain enough powder to reconstitute liquid milk sufficient for ten children. So the children were counted and the necessary amount of milk measured out. Great care was taken to explain the importance of closing the fibre drum to keep the milk dry and in good condition. Then began the mixing.

The children who had disappeared from the group from time to time now began appearing again with their faces shining, their hair all combed

and their hands clean. Some of them presented the health educator with a package wrapped in fresh green banana leaves and as she opened it there were large tortillas steaming hot. More mothers joined the group bringing more tortillas as well as flowers and soon the mayor volunteered to open the margarine in order that the sample snack might be complete even then. Taking out his *machete* he quickly and most skilfully opened the can.

The milk was now mixed and all was ready. Paper cups were brought for the occasion and there, outside the little chapel, lines of school children were served a cup of milk with tortillas and margarine. They carried it into the chapel, their school room, and sat at the little wooden benches with banana leaves serving as napkins on which they placed their snack.

As they sat in the chapel, in the presence of the Cross on the altar, and with the changing colors and light of a beautiful tropical sunset softening the room these rural school children received their first snack given in their school. As the teacher spoke to them about UNICEF and how it was helping boys and girls in every country, there was a sense of benediction as part of a national nutrition program was becoming a reality in Nicaragua.

Chain Reaction

As the Minister of Public Health in Costa Rica once said, "It is amazing what one glass of milk can do". Forty grams of dried skim milk per child, and what a chain of activities it has set in motion!

Believing in drawing on the interested groups of the community, the Ministry of Health had, in the early days, set up a National Child Welfare Committee to consider certain ques-

tions in connection with the development of these programs. UNICEF aid would not go on forever. Some had read of milk conservation programs in Europe and thought it might be possible there too, in Nicaragua.

A request was prepared and the UNICEF Executive Board approved \$115,000 for a milk drying plant to be built in connection with a new pasteurizing plant which was being set up by the National Company of Milk Producers. The latter, was opened in August 1953 and within the first six months of operation the consumption of pure milk had increased 65 per cent in Managua.

More milk is wanted and more milk will be available. Following the technical advice of the experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization, producers are now able to get more milk per cow, and in addition the area from which milk is being brought into the plant is being extended with the government putting new roads through.

In June of this year, as the rainy season sets in, there will be an excess of fluid milk which, for the first time in the history of a Central American country, will be processed into dried skim milk which the government will purchase in order to continue the feeding program for 40,000 children, begun originally with UNICEF assistance.

In addition to having this year included funds to purchase from the new milk drying plant powdered skim milk sufficient for 40,000 children, the government is likewise buying a large part of the butter being made by the plant, which will be used instead of the margarine previously sent in by UNICEF.

It has often been said in Central America that there is a vicious circle

of factors affecting the well-being of the population, such as poverty, ignorance, disease, low agricultural production and rapid increase of population. These factors are so inter-related that no single approach alone suffices. Positive results are being gained through the large scale co-operative programs being undertaken by governments, international and bilateral agencies, together with increased interest and participation by the people themselves.

The fact that anti-malarial drugs, available through the Ministry of Public Health and formerly sought after, are no longer requested by the public, speaks for itself with reference to the decrease in malaria. Each gain such as this makes other gains more possible and there is much yet to be done.

There may be too few health clinics but people are not waiting for the government to do everything. For example a group of women of very modest means, living in the midst of a very poor district of the capital, decided that they needed a health centre. They are going to get it but in the meantime they are not sitting and waiting. Recently they inaugurated a feeding service for nursing and pregnant women and pre-school children in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health.

There was never any more formal or serious procession than one we saw recently when a group of men in a village showed visitors the new latrines being built as a community venture in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health.

It is a fact that today the government's budget for the School Feeding Program is greater than was the entire Public Health Budget in 1949.

The dramatization in the patio is drawing to a close. The children are reciting "La Inmensa Ronda"—The Great Circle—by Gaston Figueira. Dressed in costumes representing various regions of the world, they are forming an interpretive tableau. First the children representing the Americas make up the group. Then they are joined by the others as they are mentioned in the poetry:

*Children of all America
Be always brothers to each other
Make a great circle
Unite, unite your hands together*

*Children of the three Americas
Sing the sweetest songs
Songs of peace and loveliness
Songs as pure as the tuberose.*

*Children of all America
Be always brothers to each other*

*Children of all the world
Be always good brothers
Form a great circle
Unite, unite your hands together*

*Children of the universe
Sing the sweetest songs
Songs of peace and harmony
Songs as pure as the tuberose*

*Children of all the world
BE ALWAYS GOOD BROTHERS*

Perhaps the school feeding demonstration programs have not gone very far yet, but it is clear that they have not just ended in "drinking milk" but have, in so many different ways, led to something equally or more important—"learning much".

Not just the children, but parents, teachers, governments—yes, and the international representatives too—are learning much.

AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL WORK

By JOHN J. O. MOORE and JOY SMITH

SINCE the autumn of 1952, the faculty of the McGill University School of Social Work has given special consideration to the educational needs of students from abroad.

Recognition of the problem posed by the foreign student is of course not new or unique. Whenever students from other countries have presented themselves for training, they have had difficulties in adapting themselves to our kind of life and greater difficulties in seeing how their studies here can help them in the situation back home".

Social work, as it has grown on this continent is not always applicable in countries where cultural patterns are markedly different. The question is whether social work is closely tied up with peculiar social structures, or whether it has universally applicable principles that can be identified and taught and effectively transferred from one culture to another.

The School has agreed on a tentative broad program for students from other countries. The part of the program we are concerned with here is an international seminar on social work, because the School has had the longest experience with it.

The Seminar

The seminar is based on a certain concept of social work and is a modest attempt to further the knowledge and skill required to make the concept effective.

The concept is based on the definition of social work as a branch of applied social science that seeks to use social processes to attain the maximal wellbeing and development

of society and the individuals within it.

This may appear to be a very sweeping definition for the small, incompletely developed profession of social work as it exists to-day. But it is the only concept that will allow for the development of a profession capable of dealing with the social problems of the world as it is now, and the only concept broad enough to be useful for co-operation among people of other cultures and nations.

The papers prepared by the students gave them an opportunity to think out their own situations and test their thinking through discussion. The leader's role was to supply information and to stimulate the kind of discussion that would provide emotional as well as intellectual learning.

The emotional element was particularly important in the work of the seminar because most of the students wished to work in newly developing programs that would require considerable insight, flexibility and leadership from them, under conditions in which a thorough knowledge of principles and full integration of learning, emotional and intellectual, is of the utmost importance.

A second reason for careful attention to the emotional aspects of learning lay in the nature of the material to be studied. Most people are so immersed in their own culture that they are unable to consider their own or others without many biases.

A social worker who is unaware of his cultural biases may attempt to destroy or condone social practices without a true awareness of their function or rational consideration of their value.

While the development of such free social insight is desirable for all social workers, it is a necessity for those who wish to explore and develop the new frontiers of social work. The leader attempted to use the discussion process to develop as far as possible this capacity for social awareness and to promote the integration of sound social principles as a basis for judgment.

The first three meetings were based on the idea that social work attempts to develop human potentialities and well-being through the utilization of social processes. This concept gave some students an occasion to re-examine the techniques they had comfortably accepted as the totality of social work, and others an exciting opportunity to think through the discrepancies they had felt between the techniques they were learning in one setting and what they might require in another setting.

Another feeling evident among the students was that this concept of social work provided a fresh challenge and a sense of worth for those who came from so-called "under-developed" territories. It freed them from a humiliating sense of being given a "hand-out" of social work knowledge. It called upon them to become co-workers in a wider development of social work to which they could make unique contributions.

The students' papers on which the next twelve meetings were based, were meant in general to describe the chief social "dis-ease" in a community and formulate some appropriate remedial measures according to the nature and origin of the prob-

lems. Time limits and lack of sufficient information of all kinds made it impossible, of course, to do more than focus upon the problems of which the student was aware, although some hitherto unrecognized problems were discovered because the leader and other members of the group brought various points of view to the discussion. Formulating possible solutions was difficult and leader and students felt the lack of authoritative studies.

An Example of the Process

A brief summary of one of the papers and discussion following it should give a clearer idea of this process.

There is a small American country with a dense population of Indian and Spanish origin. It is politically organized as an independent republic with a house of assembly and a president. Historically, it has functioned as a dictatorship of the president who derived his power from the Army rather than from the house of assembly. It has achieved more democratic forms of government in the last two decades.

The economic class structure consists of three groups. The upper class people derive their position from the ownership of large plantations and a few large industries. They educate their children abroad and spend a good part of their adult lives outside the country as well. There is a small middle class group of business and professional people. The lowest class, which constitutes 60 per cent of the population, are migrant labourers. They are employed chiefly on the

Dr. Moore is Director of the McGill School of Social Work, and Mrs. Smith, co-author of this article, is a special lecturer on his staff.

plantations and move constantly with the crop cycles. In consequence, they are unable to maintain family ties, attend school, or otherwise participate in continuing social institutions.

Individual churches serve as community centres for much of the population. A welfare department has been established by the government, which gives financial support and some supervision to a number of church and charitable organizations, and maintains its own institutions as well. These organizations provide a variety of services: milk dispensaries, free meals, clothing and shelter.

A children's aid society gives some financial support and day nursery care for children of working mothers. Day nurseries are also attached to the four state-owned children's homes. There is a separate home for the care of delinquent and difficult children. There is one public hospital and some 20 private ones which give a certain amount of free care to the indigent ill. One endowed children's hospital provides medical care for children.

Education is compulsory, but only 48 per cent of the children are actually enrolled in schools. Of these about 50 per cent cannot go beyond Grade 2 since most rural areas lack the necessary facilities. If all children attended school, it is estimated there would be over 100 children per teacher. In the rural areas distances and the difficulty of getting children to and from school are a major problem in the enforcement of compulsory attendance at school.

The government has recently introduced minimum wage laws and social security measures (e.g. unemployment insurance). However, the effective implementation of these is exceedingly difficult. They are new to the country and there is much opposition

to them on the part of plantation owners and others who state that rising costs will hamper their operations, affect the export markets and thus the total economy of the country.

The following problems were formulated and discussed in the seminar:

1. The upper class group are out of touch with the main body of the people and the culture, and escape much of the pressure created by the social problems of their community. It is easy for them to ignore problems of which they have little direct knowledge, or to fail to feel for people who are generally unknown to them even as a group.

2. The middle class group is small. They are aware of the problems of their community and identify themselves with aims for its better development. However, they are handicapped by the smallness of their numbers.

3. The migrant labour group, which constitutes 60 per cent of the population, are living under conditions which constantly create aggressive and anti-social attitudes, while the chief means of creating socialized attitudes (healthy family life, education and participation in community life) are not available to them.

4. The present attempts to deal with these social problems all require some re-enforcement to be effective. Means must be found to implement the wage laws and social security measures. The social agencies could develop more than relief programs that get only at symptoms. Ways need to be found to make education more readily available and to raise its standards in order to use its potentialities for community development.

5. Now, on what should a social worker concentrate his efforts to promote the general development of

this society? Can the upper class group be made more aware of their community problems, more responsive to its needs? Can the social worker work directly with people in the migrant labour group to help them develop appropriate social institutions and attitudes in the place of their present disorganized and anti-social life? If so, how should he go about it? Should a social worker centre his activities in the government welfare measures and social security program? Or should he work with the private organizations to help them create broadened community development programs in addition to their present services to the destitute, homeless and ill? What measures are going to have the most fundamental effect upon these problems? Whose responsibility is it to see that such measures are developed—government, citizens, social workers?

In this illustration we have selected a rather clear-cut situation, with many familiar features, in contrast with others which were presented in the seminar. It becomes even more difficult to find solutions to problems when these are bound up with profound racial and national conflicts or are hinged on economic conditions completely outside the control of the particular country.

What Was Accomplished by the Seminar

Since it is evident that we were unable to offer ready answers for many of the questions raised in this seminar, it may be asked what really was accomplished by it.

The first discernible accomplishment was growing skill in social diagnosis. By the end of the year all students were able to assess the strengths, weaknesses and potentialities

of a broad social situation, in the same way that beginning casework students are able to assess those of an individual client.

A second gain was the knowledge which each student acquired about his own country. This enabled him to see it more completely than he had previously, and to develop a better sense of causality and of relations between various social factors.

A third gain, derived from the second, was the increased ability of the members of the seminar to extricate themselves from emotionally laden conventions about social and racial issues. This enabled them to make more rational assessments as to whether particular social institutions and practices were detrimental to, or furthered, the welfare of the people.

The fourth, and most important, learning from the seminar was a wider concept of social work and an awareness of the knowledge which must be developed to make it effective. An awareness of what is needed can lead to a search for such knowledge.

These social work students began to see themselves and their function in relation to fundamental needs in an entire society. The questions raised in the seminar point to the need for a problem-solving approach and problem-solving techniques applicable to many different types of social situations, which may be fundamental to the more highly specialized forms of diagnosis and treatment now constituting the bulk of social work practice on this continent.

When broadly applicable principles and practices have been developed, social work will be in a position to make a more vital contribution towards the development of the constructive capacities of mankind.

READING LIST ON INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE

In place of the usual book review section, in this issue we are offering the following short list of publications. For additional suggestions see reviews and notices in previous and subsequent issues of *CANADIAN WELFARE*.

Note: UN and WHO publications may be ordered from Ryerson Press, 299 Queen Street West, Toronto, and UNESCO publications from University of Toronto Press, Toronto 5.

Canada and the United Nations, 1952-1953, by the Department of External Affairs. Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1953. Price 50 cents.

Everyman's United Nations. A ready reference to the structure, functions and work of the UN and its related agencies. Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, 1950. Price \$1.25.

Fundamental and Adult Education. UNESCO, Paris. Quarterly. Price \$1.00 a year.

Gaining Understanding and Support of International Social Welfare. National Social Welfare Assembly, New York, 1954. Price 30 cents.

Human Problems in Technological Change, a Casebook, edited by Edward H. Spicer. Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1952. Price \$4.00. (To be reviewed).

International Social Welfare Issues, 1954. National Social Welfare Assembly, New York, 1954. Price 15 cents.

Joint UN/WHO Meeting of Experts on the Mental-Health Aspects of Adoption. (World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 70). World Health Organization, Geneva, 1953. Price 15 cents.

Men Against Ignorance. Selection of articles by experienced news correspondents on Asia, Latin America and West Africa, by UNESCO. UNESCO, Paris, 1953.

Modern Methods of Rehabilitation of the Adult Disabled. United Nations, New York, 1953. Price \$1.25. (To be reviewed).

Preliminary Report on the World Social Situation, United Nations, New York, 1952.

The Race Question in Modern Science. A series of pamphlets by various authors. UNESCO, Paris, 1951. (To be reviewed).

Study on Adoption of Children: A Study on the Practice and Procedures Related to the Adoption of Children. UN Department of Social Affairs. United Nations, New York, 1953. Price 50 cents. (To be reviewed).

Welfare Work in Jamaica, by Roger Marier. UNESCO, Paris, 1953. Price \$1.00. (To be reviewed).

The War on World Poverty, by the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson. Longman's, Green & Co., Toronto, 1953. Price \$3.00. (To be reviewed).

The Wild Place, by Kathryn Hulme. Little-Brown, Boston, 1953. (Toronto, McClelland & Stewart). Price \$4.25. (To be reviewed).

United Nations Bulletin. Published twice monthly by the UN Department of Public Information to provide a current, concise and impartial account of the work of the UN and the Specialized Agencies. (A French edition is published monthly). Ryerson Press, Toronto. Price \$4.50 a year.

United Nations Series on Community Organization. (Caribbean Area and Mexico; South and South East Asia; selected Arab Countries of the Middle East). United Nations, New York, 1953. Price 40 cents each. (To be reviewed).

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This well-informed account in simple language of over sixty diseases of the body is chosen to illustrate particular principles of causation and treatment. It is not planned primarily as a work of reference, but as an introduction to the understanding of a very wide subject. The book describes major diseases, disabilities, chronic states, emergencies, and infectious and tropical diseases with considerable factual detail, but assuming that the reader has no previous acquaintance with medical topics.

\$2.00

MINNA FIELD

PATIENTS ARE PEOPLE

*A Medical-Social Approach to
Prolonged Illness*

This study of the psychological and sociological effects of chronic illness upon the patient, his family, and the community offers many suggestions of possible ways of dealing with the problem. The book is abundantly illustrated with case histories from the author's experience at Montefiore Hospital for Chronic Diseases, New York City.

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